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Vessels.	Tons.	Captains. SATURDAY, 2 P.M. 1898.
B.M. EGYPT	8000	R. F. Briscoe .. 12th Mar.
* CARTHAGE	5287	J. R. London .. 19th "
B.M.L. CALEDONIA	7358	W. B. Andrews. 26th "
* SHANNON	4189	F. Cole ..... 2nd April.
B.M.L. ORIENTAL	5284	L. H. Moule..... 9th "
* CLYDE	4099	E.H. Gordon..... 16th "
B.M.L. CARTHAGE	5287	J. R. London .. 23rd "
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B.M.L. EGYPT	8000	R. F. Briscoe .. 7th May.
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B.M.L. CALEDONIA	7358	W. B. Andrews. 4th June.
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IMPERATOR	T. Nicolich	4,119	1st May 1898.

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BOMBAY ART SOCIETY.

THE NINTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION will be OPENED at the SECRETARIAT, on WEDNESDAY, 16th March, at 5-30 P.M.
The Exhibition will be open daily, from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M.
Military Band in attendance.
ADMISSION ONE RUPEE.
Season Tickets 3 Rupees.
The Society's Conversazione will be held on 15th March at 9-30 p.m., at the Secretariat.

NOTICE.

TENDERS for PROVISIONING the Prisoners of the House of Correction for a period of twelve months commencing 1st April, 1898, will be received by the Undersigned up to 1 P.M., on the 16th instant.

C. N. HALL,
Superintendent, H M's House of Correction, Byculla.

SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.
NOTICE.

ON and from SATURDAY, the 12th instant, No. 109 UP TRAIN which now LEAVES Bangalore at 21-0 will LEAVE at 19-30 and ARRIVE Guntakal, at 6-18 as at present, and No. 65 UP which now LEAVES Madhur at 15-25 will LEAVE at 15-20 and ARRIVE Bangalore, at 19-10 instead of 19-15.

NEVILLE PRIESTLEY,
Traffic Manager.
Central Offices, Dharwar, 5th March, 1898.

THE STANDARD, A SCOTTISH LIFE OFFICE of 72 years' standing, and one of the wealthiest and most progressive of the Provident Institutions of the United Kingdom.

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CONDITIONS LIBERAL.

F. A. PREVOST,
Secretary,
Bombay.

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SORABJEE COWASJEE & Co.,
AUCTIONEERS AND COMMISSION AGENTS,
21, MEADOWS STREET, FORT, BOMBAY.

AUCTION SALE OF IRON CARGO BARGES.

By order of the Trustees of the Port of Bombay, the undersigned will sell by Public Auction at Frere Bunder, near Kala Chowkey THIS DAY, TUESDAY, the 8th instant, at 3 p.m., the undernoted barges:—
6 iron cargo barges.
1 wooden cargo barge.
1 iron saddle back barge.
1 iron pontoon.
For further particulars and conditions of sale apply to the undersigned at their office, No. 21, Meadows Street.

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BRAND NEW CYCLES.

The Elston.
The Peerless.
The Sun.
One second-hand Tandem Cycle to be sold on commission.

SORABJEE COWASJEE & Co.,
Bombay, 8th March, 1898. Auctioneers.

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At Livery, including Syce per mensem Commission on Horses Bought or Sold	17	0
Examination and Certificate	10	0
Verbal opinion as to Soundness	5	0

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G. KIEHL, Proprietor.

NOTICES.

INDIAN GUARANTEE AND SURETYSHIP ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

NOTICE is hereby given that a DIVIDEND of 10 per cent. for the year ending 31st December, 1897, will be paid to Registered Shareholders, on and after TUESDAY, the 8th March, 1898, at the Offices of the Company, Albert Building.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
R. PATERSON BROWN,
Acting Secretary.
Bombay, 28th February, 1898.

CLERK & CO,
GENERAL MERCHANTS AND COMMISSION AGENTS,
OPPOSITE ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE.

WE have always in STOCK a LARGE COLLECTION of Toys, Dolls, Fancy Presentation Goods, Fancy Figures, Table Ornaments, Lady Companions Game-Boxes, Albums, Indian Figures, &c.

BOMBAY, BARODA & CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.
NOTICE.

ON and from THURSDAY, 10th March, 1898, a revised Time Table of Local Trains will be brought into force giving an improved and accelerated service to Bandra and stations north up to Virar.
The following is an abstract of the timings to and from the principal stations beyond Bandra, details of which and of the other trains will be found in the bills exhibited at Stations, or may be obtained on application at the Traffic Manager's Office:—

DOWN TRAINS—WEEK DAYS.

	Thro. Mxd.	Fast	Thro. Pass	Fast	Thro. Pass	Thro. Mxd.	Fast	Thro. Pass
	H M	H M	H M	H M	H M	H M	H M	H M
Colaba ..... Dep	5 45	9 23	10 30	12 0	3 30	5 50	8 55	10 30
Church Gate ,,	5 50	9 28	10 35	12 5	3 36	5 55	9 0	10 35
Grant Road ,,	6 0	9 41	10 45	12 15	3 45	6 5	9 8	10 45
Bandra ..... Arr	6 23	9 57	11 7	12 37	4 7	6 33	9 30	11 7
,, ... Dep	6 33	10 0	11 10	12 40	4 10	6 36	9 33	11 10
Andheri ..... Arr	7 29	10 57	12 7	1 37	5 7	7 40	10 30	12 7
,, ... Dep	6 44	10 59	12 9	1 39	5 9	7 42	10 32	12 9
Malad ..... ,,	6 55	11 10	12 20	1 50	5 20	7 53	10 43	12 20
Borivli ..... Arr	7 1	11 16	12 26	1 56	5 26	7 59	10 49	12 26
,, ... Dep	7 4	11 18	12 28	1 58	5 28	8 2	10 51	12 28
Virar ..... Arr	7 43	11 57	1 7	2 37	6 7	8 41	11 30	1 7

UP TRAINS—WEEK DAYS.

	Thro. Pass	Fast	Thro. Pass	Fast	Fast.	Thro. Mxd.	Fast.	Fast.
	H M	H M	H M	H M	H M	H M	H M	H M
Virar ..... Dep	3 30	....	5 50	8 55	....	11 30	....	....
Borivli ..... Arr	....	6 22	....	9 24	....	....	....	....
,, ... Dep	....	6 25	....	9 26	....	....	....	....
Malad ..... ,,	....	6 33	....	9 33	....	....	....	....
Andheri ..... ,,	....	6 50	....	9 50	....	12 15	....	....
Bandra ..... Arr	....	7 0	....	10 0	....	12 25	....	....
,, ... Dep	....	7 5	....	10 5	....	12 30	....	....
Grant Road ,,	5 36	7 26	6 0	10 26	11	12 51	2	8
Church Gate ,,	6 0	7 40	6 7	10 40	11	1 5	2	8
Colaba ..... Arr	6 5	7 45	6 12	10 45	11	1 10	2	8

	Fast.	Fast.	Thro. Mxd.	Fast.	Thro. Pass	Fast.	Thro. Pass	Thro. Pass
	H M	H M	H M	H M	H M	H M	H M	H M
Virar ..... Dep	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Borivli ..... Arr	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
,, ... Dep	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Malad ..... ,,	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Andheri ..... ,,	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Bandra ..... Arr	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
,, ... Dep	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Grant Road ,,	8	11	12	12	3	12	3	3
Church Gate ,,	8	11	12	12	3	12	3	3
Colaba ..... Arr	8	11	12	12	3	12	3	3

In consequence of the above changes, the Up and from March 10th leave Palghar at 5 6 Mail will on
" Dadar " 6 56
" Grant Road " 7 17
" Church Gate " 7 35
arrive Colaba 7 40

C. CROMMELIN,
Traffic Manager.
Traffic Manager's Office, Bombay, 4th March, 1898.

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THROUGH AMERICA.

THE SAN FRANCISCO OVERLAND ROUTE.
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OCCIDENTAL AND ORIENTAL S. S. Co.
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A TERRIBLE COUGH.
A TERRIBLE COUGH.

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"Dear Sir,—I am a poor hand at expressing my feelings, but I should like to thank you. Your lozenges have done wonders in relieving my terrible cough. Since I had the operation of 'Tracheotomy' (the same as the late Emperor of Germany, and unlike him, thank God I am still alive) performed at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, no one could possibly have had a more violent cough: it was so bad at times that it quite exhausted me. The mucous, which was very copious and hard, has been softened, and I have been able to get rid of it without difficulty.—I am, sir, yours truly, J. HILL."

A DOCTOR'S TESTIMONY.
A DOCTOR'S TESTIMONY.
A DOCTOR'S TESTIMONY.

"South Park, Cardiff, South Wales, Sept. 28, 1893.
"I have, indeed, great pleasure in adding my testimony to your excellent preparation of Cough Lozenges, as I have prescribed it now for the last eight years in my hospital and private practice, and found it of great benefit. I often suffer from Chronic Bronchitis; your Lozenges is the only remedy which gives me immediate ease. Therefore, I certainly and most strongly recommend your Lozenges to the public who may suffer from Catarrh, Bronchitis, Winter Cough, or any kind of Pulmonary Irritation.—Yours truly,
"A. GABRIEL, M.D., L.R.C.P. & L.M., Edinburgh L.R.C.S. & L.M., Edinburgh

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C. BERESFORD,
Manager
Bombay 30th Jul 1897

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Manager.

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T. JACKSON, *Chief Manager.*

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WM. ANASTASIUS JONES, Esq. (Director of the London and County Banking Co., Limited).
F. D. RAWLES, Esq. (Managing Director, P. & O. S. N. Co.)
G. E. NOBLE, Esq., 37 Inverness Terrace, Bayswater, W.)

EWEN CAMERON, JOHN WALTER. } Managers.

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BOMBAY.

TO-DAY.

Sun rises, Ch. 14m. Sun sets, Ch. 8m. High water, 11-24m. 11-40n. Low water, 5-10m., 5-15a.

Lacy Sandhurst's Charity Concert, Town Hall, 5-30 p.m.

POLO—There will be a game, at 5 o'clock, this afternoon.

GRANT COLLEGE MEDICAL SOCIETY.—The monthly meeting of the Society will be held in the Grant College Library, at 4-30, this afternoon, when Dr. J. A. Da Gama will read the remaining portion of his paper.

BURGLARY AT DHABOO STREET.—Hussanali Moosaji, a Mahomedan, residing on the fourth floor of a house at Dhaboo Street, locked the door of his room at 2 o'clock, on Saturday afternoon, and went to Mahim. On his return home, at 9 p.m., on the following day, he found the place had been broken into by forcing open the lock on the door, and gold and silver ornaments, wearing apparel, currency notes, and cash, of the aggregate value of Rs. 150, stolen from a cupboard, which had also been forced open.

FATAL RESULT OF SLEEPING NEAR A FIRE-PLACE.—Mr. Allan F. Turner, the coroner, held an inquiry, yesterday, at Haines Road Cemetery, regarding the death of Gaya, a Hindu girl, aged eight years, daughter of of one Jeeva Trimbuck, a labourer, residing at Morland Road. About 4 o'clock on the afternoon of the 2nd instant the mother was engaged in the cook-room, preparing meal, and the deceased was lying asleep near the fire-place. After finishing the cooking work, the mother went out to a standpipe to wash clothes, leaving Gaya in the same place. A few minutes after as the mother was returning with a chatty full of water, she heard deceased screaming, and on going into the kitchen, saw deceased's saree in flames. The mother pulled the burning garment off her person and extinguished the flames, but not before the girl had been badly burnt over the abdomen and thighs. The girl was treated at home with household remedies, but she grew worse and died on Sunday. A verdict of accidental death was returned by the jury.

SUSPICIOUS CASE OF THEFT.—Saleh Mahomed, the agent of one Haji Janmahomed, a merchant of Bangalore, has reported to the police that some time early on Sunday morning, his sudria, in the pocket of which were currency notes and cash to the amount of Rs. 702, was stolen from his room. The complainant, it appears, got up early on Sunday morning to attend to nature's call, and returned to the room shortly after, but he could not say whether he had closed the door of the room again. His daughter, a girl aged about ten years, got up about 5-30 a.m., and found the door of this room open. The sudria was lying on a box near where the complainant was asleep. The money, it appears, belonged to the complainant's master, Haji Janmahomed, and this was the first time that complainant had brought his master's money to his house, as he alleged, to pay for some goods on behalf of his master. The complainant has been serving as agent to his master for the last eleven months.

ALLEGED THEFT DURING HOUSE-TO-HOUSE INSPECTION.—Mr. M. D. Gheesta, a Parsee Veterinary Surgeon, residing at Girgaum Back Road, reported to the police at half-past 1 o'clock, on Saturday afternoon, that some time during his absence from home, on the 28th ultimo, his place was entered, and currency notes and cash, of the aggregate value of Rs. 200, were stolen from his cupboard, which had apparently been opened by means of a duplicate key. Mr. Gheesta suspects that the theft must have been committed by one of the members of a house-to-house visiting party, who had visited the place during his absence from home. He further states that on opening the cupboard on Saturday last he found three pieces of camphor partly burnt and a piece of cloth sprinkled with kerosene oil inside the cupboard, as if the thief had tried to set the cupboard on fire. The information of the theft has been circulated and further inquiries are in progress. The numbers of two of the currency notes for Rs. 10 each has also been given to the police.

SINGULAR SUICIDE OF A RAILWAY EMPLOYE.—An inquiry was held, yesterday, at Waree Bunder, by Mr Turner, the coroner, on view of the body of Sebastian Murzello, aged twenty-five years, an assistant foreman, employed in the service of the G. I. P. Railway Company and working in the Waree Bunder goods shed. At 6 o'clock, on Friday evening, deceased went to Toolsiram Rahul, a register clerk employed in the goods shed, and told him that he would not be able to perform his night duty work as he had fever. The register clerk told him to go and lay down in the office. He did so, but at 11-30 p.m. he went into E shed with a blanket over him. When asked why he had left the office and gone there, he replied that he did not feel comfortable in the office, and that he wanted to see how the work was going on, as his superior would be angry with him in the morning if it had not been done properly. The deceased then left and went in the direction of the office. At about 1 o'clock in the morning, when the register clerk finished his work, he went to the office to get the signature of the deceased in the shunting order book, and it was then discovered that Murzello had been missing. A search was made for him and his blanket was found lying in E shed, but the whereabouts of the deceased could not be traced. A man was despatched to his residence at Umarkady, but he was not there too. The goods traffic inspector, who resides in the goods yards at Boree Bunder, was then informed, and a further search was made, but to no effect. On Sunday following the dead body of the deceased was found floating in the sea at the end of E shed and was removed to the police. There were no marks of violence on the body. He was not known to be in monetary or any other trouble, except that he complained of fever on the evening in question. A verdict of suicide was recorded.

THANA NEWS.—A local correspondent, writing on Sunday, says:—Mr. Mohsin Badrudin Tyabji, I.C.S., Acting Sessions Judge of Thana, who had been on circuit in Alibag Zilla, returned to Thana on Wednesday last. He has examined the office work of Mr Govind Narayan Kelkar, Joint Subordinate Judge at Mahad.—All the offices of Government have been closed from yesterday, on account of the "Holi" holiday, until Wednesday, the 9th instant.—A fire broke out in the upper floor of a shawl, belonging to Jiwji Ratansi, a Khoja, and occupied by Ramdayal, a Purdasi sweetmeat-seller, in the old market, yesterday, and a part of the shawl was burned down. The Municipal fire-engine within a very short space of time was brought to the scene of fire and set to work by the assistance of the Municipal officers and Mr. Bapuji Jamsetji, Nazar of the District Courts of Thana, and Mr. Francis Charles, head constable of the District Police, and several others, and the fire was soon extinguished. The cause is not known as yet. The damage is estimated approximately at Rs. 2,500.—Moorlidhar Nana, a bailiff belonging to the District Court of Thana, and six others were tried by the Huzur Deputy Collector and First Class Magistrate of Thana for pulling down jhowli fencings of a house in the Makhmali Tank Street and putting them into a "figora" pit and burning them. They were, on conviction, fined Rs. 20 each, on Wednesday last.—Shaik Abdool Rahiman, a special plague inspector, posted at the Railway station, who was charged with taking a bribe of annas four from a passenger (who had come here from a plague-infected district), to let him go without detention in the quarantine camp, was tried by the City Magistrate, and on conviction was sentenced to one month's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 10, on Friday last.—A number of dead rats have recently been found in the houses of about half-a-dozen Vani merchants and Parboos, in the Bazaar Peith, and several Vanis have consequently left the town and gone to reside in the nearest villages. Kondoo Gowlee, an ex-sepoy, belonging to the special prison of Thana, was found suffering from bubonic fever, near the Warder's Lines, on Friday last. He was immediately removed to the plague hospital for medical treatment at Utalsar, where he died.—The weather during the last four days was densely foggy and unpleasant, the wind being high and cold. The days were very dull.

IF, writes the "Times of Ceylon," what we hear of H. M. S. Powerful is true, she would not appear to be of very much use on the China station, and the sooner she is sent home to get a new set of engines the better. It will be remembered that she came into Colombo with her starboard engines only working, as those on the port side had broken down. When Messrs. Walker and Sons overhauled them they found the break-down was much more serious than was generally thought to be the case, and the huge vessel had to stop in the harbour to have it repaired. After leaving Colombo, we hear from a letter that has been received in Colombo from one of the officers, several mishaps occurred, and then there was another break-down of the port engines, which took a long time to repair. The machinery is still reported to be very unreliable and [illegible] some very severe comments have been made in the home papers about it. When she arrived at Colombo no reason given as to why she took so long over the journey was long stoppages, but it was not stated that these were occasioned through defective machinery.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you broken in your rest by a sick child suffering with the pain of cutting teeth? go at once to a chemist and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately. It is perfectly harmless and pleasant to the taste, produces natural quiet sleep by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes "as bright as a button." It soothes the child, it softens the gums, allays all pains, relieves wind, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other cause. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup is [illegible] at 1s 6d per bottle.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

AT next Friday's meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council the Bill consolidating the Criminal Procedure Code will come up for disposal.

SIR WILLIAM LOCKHART again interviewed the *jirgahs* at Jamrud on Friday, when it was reported to him that the Kambar and Kuki Khel representatives were assembled in Baza Valley ready to come in.

THE date for the Lieutenant-Governor's departure from Allahabad to Lucknow is not yet fixed: but it will probably be not later than March 12th, and may be as early as March 9th. His Honour intends going to Naini Tal at the end of this month.

DURING General Nairne's term of office as provisional Commander-in-Chief Colonel Duff will continue to act as Military Secretary, and will retain the post afterwards under Sir William Lockhart. Lieutenant Marindin, A.-D.-C., will join General Nairne's staff temporarily.

SIR ANTONY MACDONNELL, when he goes on leave, will go by the P. and O. steamer Egypt, leaving Bombay on May 7th. Sir Antony has arranged his plans so as to resume charge of the Government of the N.-W. Provinces in the first week of November.

LATEST news from the Khyber states that a strong rumour prevails there that Sipah Salar Ghulam Hyder Khan has died at Asmar. He has been seriously ill for some time, so it is quite likely that the rumour is true.

THE Post Office Bill will be passed during the current Calcutta session: but the Stamps Bill will probably be held over, though the report of the Select Committee will be presented in the usual course.

MR. F. C. HARRISON, Accountant-General in Madras, is gazetted to furlough for eighteen months from the 9th of April next. As before stated Mr. Biggs, officiating Accountant-General, Bengal, will act for him, and Mr. W. Hervey, on return from leave, succeeds Mr. Biggs.

IRRIGATION works in Baluchistan were not as profitably worked last year as in the previous year. The Shebo Canal instead of showing a ten thousagd rupees profit recorded a loss of 863, against which has to be set an increase of 48 per cent. on the net revenue of the Khushdil Khan Reservoir. However, there was a marked increase in the yield per acre on both branches and prices realised for crops were higher.

IN May last, one Fazar Ali, living in Bhitabureya in Thanuah Bhandaria, in Barisa and, dreamt a dream in which a person, dressed in red cloth, said to him: "Pour milk and place mangoe of the junction of the Dhone and Kota rivers, then you will get an ample supply of fish there which will enrich you." Fazar Ali did as he was bid, and thenceforth he is getting a large quantity of fish. He has subsequently found a brazen image of God Shiva there. It is said, the Sub-Divisional Officer of Perozepore has seen the image and has reported the matter to the Divisional Commissioner. So says the *Dacca Gazette*.

THE Inter-regimental Tournament at Meerut has ended as it was expected to end, the Durhams having vanquished the 4th Dragoon Guards by 4 goals and 6 subsidiaries to 2 goals and 2 subsidiaries. It is evident that the other teams engaged in the tournament made a most determined effort to defeat the champions; and their failure only shows that the play of the Durhams is not likely to be beaten until the principles of their game are more generally grasped and more steadily enforced. They have proved that, other things being equal, the team with an approximately perfect organisation—the team, that is which has ruthlessly eliminated the player whose only precept is to hit the ball never mind, when, how or where—*must* win: but no other team seems as yet quite to have realised all that this implies. The Durhams have now no more tournaments to win before they leave India for Burma: but they may well rest content with a list of victories wholly without parallel in the history of the game.

IN view of the increasing number of plague-stricken villages, the Punjab Government has decided on placing the whole of the infected area under close observation. This area roughly consists of the major portions of the Nawashahar tahsil in Jullunder district and Garhshankar tahsil in Hoshiarpur district. The united population of these two districts is four lakhs, so that the strain on the provincial resources in civil servants, medical and police, is likely to be considerable. It may even come to closing minor dispensaries so as to set those in charge of them free for the relief of senior officers needed for plague work. A hundred police, with two deputy inspectors and ten sergeants, have proceeded to Sirhal Qazian; and 200 more, with four deputy inspectors and twenty sergeants, to Phillour; all to be at hand for cordon purposes as need may arise. Efforts are also being made to obtain female medical aid; experience having shown that one of the causes of the concealment of the disease is the rooted objection of villagers to the medical examination of their female relatives by men.

THE question of opening the Victoria Cross to the native army of India, writes the *Pioneer*, is one that has been brought forward more than once before; and, indeed, during the Persian war, shortly after the Order was instituted, two native soldiers—Jemadar Runjit Singh and Trooper Lall Khan—were recommended for it. It was decided then, and it has been decided on every subsequent occasion, when the point has been raised that it was inexpedient for many reasons to enlarge the scope of the Order, and it is mainly with that view that a decoration equally exclusively reserved for the native army has been established. The Victoria Cross, as its name implies, is a Christian decoration, and is not an appropriate reward for soldiers of other faiths, in which the utmost importance is attached to ceremonial, caste-marks and symbols, nor could it—as a matter of fact—easily co-exist with the decoration that takes its place for the native army. Both carry pecuniary rewards, but the Order of British India confers also in its first and second class the highly-prized titles of "Sardar Bahadur" and "Bahadur." The Victoria Cross confers no such title, and therefore in native imagination would not carry the same distinction. The extension of the Cross to the Indian Army must be followed by its extension to the native troops we have raised and are raising in West Africa and elsewhere: for this reason alone it would always be ranked first; and yet it would be unwise and even offensive to destroy or depreciate the consideration of the Order of British India. Lastly there is to be urged the great principle of letting well alone. Everybody but the grievance-monger and the worshipper of uniformity is satisfied with things as they are, and that is a fair reason for keeping them so.

THE conditions as regards the future settlement of the Khyber are more hopeful than we might reasonably have expected. The Government can have no desire to garrison the pass permanently; for, as Lord Lytton described it, it is a death-trap, and garrison duty at Ali Musjid and Lundi Kotal would break down regiment after regiment. If then the Khyber Rifles, who for fifteen years discharged their duties so efficiently, are to be raised again—and we trust this will be done—there will be no lack of men to fill the ranks. Our officers will be able to pick and choose their men, and the greatest care should be exercised in taking only those of good repute among the tribesmen themselves. The Mullagaris, who remained loyal when the Afridi rising occurred, should not be forgotten, and an effort should be made to prevent any particular clan having a preponderance in the corps. As to the details of the arrangement under which the Khyber will be kept open much must depend upon the final settlement with the *jirgahs* as regards the question of allowances. It may be possible to abolish these altogether, in which case it might be advisable to give greater scope for the employment of the tribesmen in guarding the pass. Two battalions of rifles instead of one might be raised, say 1,600 men instead of 1,000: no additional expense would be incurred and the Afridis would be giving more hostages to fortune.

THE "Morning Post" Rome correspondent says it is reported that the Count of Turin, brother of the Duke of Aosta, and nephew of the King of Italy, will shortly be betrothed to an Austrian Archduchess. His Royal Highness will, it is further said, visit the Court of Vienna in April or May next, when the engagement will be officially announced. Another report gives the name of the Royal fiancee as the Princess Clara of Bavaria, daughter of the late Prince Adalbert of Bavaria, and Amelia Infanta of Spain, who also bears the title of Abbess of the Royal Convent of St. Anna at Wurzburg

THE TIRAH DESPATCHES.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S FINAL COMMENTS.

SIR WILLIAM LOCKHART'S ROLL OF HONOR.

THE VICEROY'S REMARKS.

GENERAL SIR WILLIAM LOCKHART'S despatch describing the operations of the Tirah Expeditionary Force from November 1st to January 26th is published.

SIR GEORGE WHITE'S LETTER TO GOVERNMENT.

In a covering letter the Adjutant-General on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief writes:—

"No campaign on the frontiers of India has been conducted under more trying and arduous circumstances than those encountered by the Tirah Expeditionary Force. Its operations have been carried out in a country destitute of roads, the physical configuration of which is such as to present the maximum of difficulty to the movement of regular troops. The enemy were for the most part skilled marksmen, exceptionally active and well armed, and expert in guerilla tactics. While avoiding serious resistance to the advance of our troops they have lost no opportunity of harassing them both on the march and in bivouac: a system of fighting admirably suited to the nature of the country, and which has necessarily occasioned us considerable loss not only in action but also from toil and exposure. In spite of these difficulties severe punishment has been meted out to the tribes concerned, with the result that the entire Orakzai tribe has submitted and complied with the terms of the Government, as have also a portion of the Afridis; and it seems probable even now that the remainder of this tribe will not force a repetition of offensive operations but will tender their submission at an early date. During the operations the fighting qualities and endurance of the troops have been highly tested, and it is with no small sense of gratification and pride that the Commander-in-Chief brings to the notice of the Government of India the soldierly conduct and discipline of the troops amidst all the hardships and exposure which fell to them; both officers and men having, whether in action or in bivouac, conducted themselves in a manner thoroughly befitting the traditions of Her Majesty's Army. His Excellency deplores the loss to the Army of the many brave officers and men who have died in the performance of their duty, and amongst them such distinguished soldiers as the late Major-General Yeatman-Biggs, Lieutenant-Colonel Haughton, 36th Sikhs, and others whose careers were so full of promise.

"The Commander-in-Chief would specially commend to the favourable notice of the Government the distinguished officer selected for the command of the expedition, who has exercised an exceptionally difficult and responsible command with much skill, vigour and judgment; and his Excellency takes this opportunity of expressing his own acknowledgments to Sir William Lockhart for the able manner in which he has directed the operations of the Force under his command. The Commander-in-Chief also endorses the commendatory remarks made by Sir William Lockhart on the services of General Sir A. Power Palmer, General Symons, and General Nicholson, and the officers and others mentioned in paragraphs 22 to 31 of the dispatch. His Excellency fully shares Sir William Lockhart's appreciation of the assistance rendered by the Imperial Service troops, whose association with our own troops has given them an opportunity of gaining valuable military experience which cannot fail to result in increased efficiency.

"Sir George White has much pleasure in commending to the notice of the Government the services of Rissaldar Jowala Singh, who has acted as orderly and accompanied the force throughout the expedition as extra Aide-de-Camp to Sir William Lockhart; of Lieutenant-Colonel the Maharaja of Cooch Behar and of Major the Maharaj Rana of Dholpur, who were employed as extra orderly officers to the divisional commanders.

"As this despatch will probably be the last that Sir George White will submit during his tenure of command, he desires to take this opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Government the valuable services rendered by the following officers and departments in connection with the recent operations."

The officers named are Sir George Wolseley, Commanding the Punjab; General Morton, Adjutant-General; General Badcock, Quartermaster-General; Colonel Duff, Military Secretary; urgent-Major-General Gore; Major Mullaly, D. A. Q. M. G. for Mobilisation; Veterinary Colonel Thomson; Major-General Hobday, Commissary General-in-Chief; Major-General Wace, Director-General of Ordnance; Mr. Reynolds, Director-General of Telegraphs; the Postal, Telegraph and Survey officers and subordinates with the Field-Forces; Colonel Brackenbury, Manager, Mr. Jacob, Traffic Superintendent and the subordinate staff of the North-Western Railway.

It is further remarked:—"It has been ascertained that between the 1st July and the 31st October the additional trains on the North-Western Railway required for military traffic amounted to 4,544, or an average of 37 trains per diem in excess of the normal traffic. Any break down of the railway arrangements during the period when troops and supplies were being pushed to the front would have a very serious effect on the military operations; and that no such failure occurred, is due in His Excellency's opinion to the able administration of his railway system by the Manager and to the untiring efforts of his subordinates."

The following are some of the observations in detail:—

"On Lieutenant-General Sir G. Wolseley and the Staff of the Punjab Command devolved the duty of carrying out the preliminary concentration of the various forces which have been placed in the field. This has been no light task, but it has been successfully performed. Of the staff at Army Headquarters I am to mention General Morton, Adjutant-General in India, who has throughout proved himself zealous and untiring in the performance of the duties of his especially during the period in his responsible position, and on all times afforded to the Commander-in-Chief all the assistance in his power. I am especially to bring to notice General Badcock, Quartermaster-General in India for his supervision of all the arrangements for the mobilisation of the large forces now recently in the field. The difficulty of the task has been greatly enhanced by the fact that we were not only engaged in active operations in several directions at one and the same time, but were also compelled to be in readiness to meet any further complication which might suddenly arise along any portion of the North-West frontier. That we have been able to mass the necessary troops without delay on the point threatened by each successive rising as it occurred and that our mobilisation arrangements have worked smoothly and without friction have been very largely due to the Quartermaster-General's constant and assiduous work. Sir George White also wishes to bring to the special notice of the Government of India the services of Lieutenant-Colonel Duff, Military Secretary, in whom his Excellency has always found a Staff Officer of the very highest ability, most earnest sense of duty and soundest judgment, who has done all that a direct personal assistant could do to lighten the work and anxiety of the Commander-in-Chief in a time of exceptional difficulty."

SIR WILLIAM LOCKHART'S DESPATCH.

Sir William Lockhart, in his despatch, describes the military operations in November, December, and January.

Regarding Sir Henry Havelock Allen's death, for which he expresses deep regret, Sir William Lockhart says:—"Every precaution had been taken to ensure his safety, and on bidding him good-bye at Lala China I had impressed on him the necessity of invariably remaining with the troops detailed for his protection."

The despatch continues:—

"During the operations described I have received every possible support and assistance from the General Officer Commanding the Lines of Communication, his Staff and the troops under his command. The requirements of the Main Column have been promptly and fully met, while the arrangements made to protect the long and exposed line between Kohat and the Samaghha Pass and afterwards to transfer the base from Kohat to Peshawar have been all that I could have desired.

"In bringing this narrative to a close I wish to record my high appreciation of the conduct of the British and native troops serving with the Tirah Expeditionary Force. Up to the present date their losses have amounted to 1,050 killed and wounded. They have been subjected to great hardship and exposure, harassed at night by assaults at close quarters or by distant rifle fire, and engaged in long and trying rear-guard actions. Their duties on picquet and in guarding ovagong parties have been especially onerous. Hardly a day or night has passed without casualties, and whether we advanced or retired every soldier had to be constantly on the alert against the enemy, who made no stand in the open but were unrivalled as skirmishers and marksmen. The operations were carried out in a country which offered every natural advantage to the tribesmen and imposed on regimental officers and rank and file the necessity for individual initiative, unremitting watchfulness and personal activity. I am glad to say the troops responded nobly to the call made upon them. Cheerful and soldier-like under exceptionally trying conditions, officers and men upheld to the utmost the traditions of their corps and the honour of her Majesty's Army.

"The advance into Tirah was delayed, and the subsequent movements of the forces were impeded, by the difficulty of finding a large proportion of the transport animals and the want of proper discipline and training amongst many of the transport drivers and Kahars. But it must be remembered that a peace organisation which has to be rapidly expanded when war breaks out takes time to render it efficient, and that the requirements elsewhere had already absorbed much of the better class of pack transport which would otherwise have been available.

"The results attained by the expedition may be summarised as follows:—The troops under my command have marched everywhere within the Orakzai and Afridi limits and the whole of Tirah has now for the first time been accurately surveyed. Our enemies, wherever encountered have been punished, and their losses are stated on unimpeachable evidence to have been extremely severe. The towers and walls of almost every fortified village in the country have been levelled to the ground, and the winter supply of grain, fodder and fuel of both tribes has been consumed by the force. The Orakzai have been completly subdued and have complied with the terms prescribed for them; but the Afridis still hold out, although I have strong hopes that they may before long submit and thus save their country from a fresh invasion in the spring.

"During the present expedition the scouts drawn from the 3rd and 5th Gurkhas have proved especially valuable. Being trained mountaineers and accustomed to guerilla warfare, they were able to climb most precipitous hills, lie in ambush at night, and surpass the Afridi men in their own tactics.

"The Imperial Service Corps attached to the force have taken their full share in the hardships of the campaign, and fighting side by side with their comrades in the regular army have given a tangible proof of their readiness and that of their rulers to assist in the defence of the Empire.

"During the expedition the Mountain Artillery had an important part to play, and fully sustained its reputation as one of the most efficient branches of that arm of the service.

"Much work of a responsible and aduous nature, principally road-making and the destruction of village defences, devolved on the corps of Royal Engineers, the companies of Sappers and Miners and the Pioneer regiments. This work was carried out in a creditable manner."

Sir William Lockhart praises the administration of the Army and Civil Departments and says that medical officers fully maintained their high reputation by their attention to the sick and wounded under fire and in hospital; also that the signalling and survey work were well done. He acknowledges the public spirit evinced by Mr. Dhanjiboy who by tonga service facilitated the transport of the sick and wounded to the base hospital.

In recording his obligations to the general officers, Sir William Lockhart writes:—"Sir A. Power Palmer has commanded the Line of Communication to my entire satisfaction and has displayed administrative talents of a high order. Major-General Symons has commanded the 1st Division with marked ability, and in a manner which has gained the confidence of all ranks. Major-General Yeatman-Biggs was in a very bad state of health from the outset, but his indomitable spirit carried him through the whole of the operations, only to die at Peshawar on January 5th. I would fain have sent him back to India from the Samana or subsequently from Korappa, but the responsible medical officers considered him fit to remain in the field: a decision which gratified him, although I personally could not agree with it. On a regrettable accident to Brigadier-General Hamilton, Brigadier-General R. Hart was sent to relieve him. General Hart joined the 1st Brigade on October 24th, and has commanded it throughout the expedition with great ability and energy. Brigadier-General Gaselee has fully maintained his high reputation and proved himself to be an admirable leader in mountain warfare. Brigadier-General Westmacott has performed excellent service, particularly when withdrawing from the Bara Valley on December 13th and 14th. Brigadier-General Hammond, though until lately he has not participated in the active operations of the force, has commanded the Peshawar Column to my satisfaction. I am also much indebted to the officer commanding the Kuram Moveable Column, Colonel Hill, who has shewn energy, capacity and judgment in the performance of his duties. His troops were well handled, both in the reconnaissance to Hissar and during the operations against the Khani Khel Chamkannis.

"I desire to being to the notice of the commander-in-Chief and the Government of India the following officers who have rendered exceptionally good service:—Brigadier General Nicholson, chief of the Staff, an officer of brilliant abilities, fertility of resource and experience in war, the value of whose assistance it is difficult for me to acknowledge in adequate terms. I would very specially put forward his services for recognition and reward. Lieutenant Colonel Barrow, Assistant Adjutant-General and Major G. H. W. O'Sullivan, Assistant Quartermaster-General, have fully justified their selection for their important post on the Army Staff. I consider these officers are well deserving of advancement. Captain Haldane, Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, is a staff officer of high promise, great ability and unfailing mental and physical energy."

Other officers included in this special list are Brigadier-General Sprague, C. B., and his Brigade Major, Captain C. De C. Hamilton; Brigadier General Broadbent, C. B. E. and his Brigade Major, Captain Crasier; Surgeon-Major General Thomson, Principal Medical Officer, and his Secretary, Surgeon-Major Morris; Colonel Scott, Senior Ordnance Officer, Colonel Christopher, Commissariat General of the Force; Major Mansfiel, Chief Transport Officer, and his Assistant, Captain Hall; Lieutenant Colonels Hixon, Kings Own Scottish Borderers; Abbott, 35th Sikhs; Travers, 2nd Gurkhas; Haughton, 36th Sikhs (who are said to have commanded their battalions in a manner which merits high approbation); Mr. Van Someren and Mr. Truninger, Postal Department; Sir Pratab Singh, Extra Aide-de-Camp. Sir William Lockhart says his acknowledgments are due also to Lord Methuen, Press Censor; Colonel Holdich, Chief Survey Officer; Veterenary Colonel Glover, Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson, Military Accounts; Mr. Pitman, Chief Suprintendent of Telegraphs, Punjab Division; Lieutenant Davie, 3rd Sikhs, commanding the Personal Escort; and Subadar-Major Bishan Singh.

The following list includes the names of officers whose good services came under Sir William Lockhart's personal notice:—"Officers whose good services came under my personal notice:—Army and personal Staff—Colonel More-Molyneux, Lieutenant-Colonel Balfe, Major Logan-Home, Captain Maconchy, Captain Swanston, Major Mercer, Captain Grimston, Surgeon-Captain Morgan, Captain Shewell, Major Scallon in charge of Imperial Service troops, Captain Bajee (Baroda State Artillery), Lieutenants Maxwell and Annesley (Aide de Camps) Lieutenant Collen and Smith (Orderly Officers), Risalder Major Khan Bahadur Risaldar Kadam Khan, Jemadar Abdul Ghani.

1st Division—Surgeon-Colonel Townsend, Lieutenant Macquoid, Captain Leslie; Royal Surrey Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Collins; Devonshire Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Yule; Yorkshire Regiment Lieutenant-Colonel Franklyn; No. 2 Derajat Mountain Battery, Captain Parker, Bengal Sappers, Captain Sergeant; 3rd Sikhs, Lieutenant-Colonel Tomnoy; 4th Gurkhas, Lieutenant-Colonel Browne; Gurkhas Scouts, Lieutenant Tillard.

2nd Division—Lieutenant Colonel Martin, Surgeon Colonel Davie, Major Lyons Montgomery, Captain Grier, Veterinary Lieutenant Rose; No. 8 Mountain Battery, Major Shirres; Royal Scots Fusiliers, Captain Northcott; King's Own Scottish Borderers, Captain Macfarlane and Captain Maclearen; Dorsetshire Regiment, Captain Clarkson; Gordon Highlanders, Major Downman; No. 5 Bombay Mountain Battery, Lieutenant Edlmoun; 15th Sikhs, Captain Roweroft; 2nd Gurkhas, Captain Macintyre and Norie; 3rd Gurkhas, Lieutenant-Colonel Palley and Major Rose; 2nd Punjab Infantry, Lieutenant-Colonel Sturt; 36th Sikhs, Lieutenant-Colonel Des Voeux and Lieutenant Munn; Gurkha Scouts, Captain Lucas and Lieutenant Bruce, Surgeon-Majors Hitchcock, Bevor, Gerard, Sheppard.

Lines of Communications—Colonels Vousden Keigley, Thurburn, Lieutenant Tomkins, Surgeon-Colonel Saunders.

The following list is given of officers favourably mentioned by the different Generals:—

1st Division—Lieutenant-Colonels Muir and Heart, Majors Ferrier and Yielding, Captains Rideout and Dabas, the Maharaj Rana of Dholpore.

1st Brigade—Major Donne and Captain Kemball, 5th Gurkhas, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General Captain Mullaly.

2nd Brigade:—Major Aldworth, Major Barre, Lieutenant Abadie. Regimental: Royal West Surrey Regiment, Captain King King, Yorkshire Regiment, Major Bowles and Lieutenant Noble, Derbyshire Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Dowsard, Major Smith Dorrien; No. 1 Kohat Mountain Battery, Captain St. John, 21st Madras Pioneers, Lieutenant-Colonel Huggins; 1st Gurkhas, Lieutenant-Colonel Sage, Major Martin; 3rd Sikhs, Major Quin and Lieutenant Taylor; 4th Gurkhas, Captain Carnigy; 30th Punjab Infantry, Lieutenant Colonel Maisey.

Army Medical Staff:—Brigade-Surgeon Lieutenant Colonels Swayne and King, Surgeon-Major Priggs and Corker.

2nd Division—Major Triscoff, Major Bewicke Copiy, Lieutenant Colonel Purdy, Major Kelly, Captains Knight, Hilliards and Wake, the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, Mr. Wainright, Survey Department.

3rd Brigade: Majors St Lezar Wood and Massy. 4th Brigade: Major Doran, Captain Edwards, 3rd Bombay Cavalry.

Regiment: Royalal Scots Fusiliers, Lieutenant-Colonel Spurgin, Captain Powes, Kings Own Scotish Borderers, Major Mayne, Captains Sladen and Haig; Dorsetshire Regiment, Lieutenant Shonbridge); Gordon Highlanders, Lieutenant, Colonel Mathias, Captains Uniacke and W. Campbell, Lieutenant A. F. Gordon; 15th Sikhs, Lieutenant Gordon; 3rd Gurkhas, Lieutenant West (since deceased); 28th Bombay Pioneers, Major Chase, Lieutenant Moore; 2nd P. I, Captain Eales; 36th Sikhs, Captain Custance, Lieut. Van Someren; Sermur Sappers, Lieutenant Chancellor, Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel Bourke, Surgeon-Major Granger, Surgeon-Captains Burtchnell and Selby.

Line of Communication: Major Tulloch, Captain Phillipps, Major Allen, Lieutenant Galloway, Captain Steel Shore, Young, Biggs, Watkins, Major Bond, Veterinary-Captain Forsdyke, Lieutenant Colonel R. Gordon, (42nd Punjab Infantry), Lieutenant-Colonel Gres, (39th Garhwal Rifles), Captain Denne, Captain Holdway, Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel H. Hamilton, Surgeon-Major Bigger.

Peshawar Column: Lieutenant-Colonel Gwatkin, Captain Brotherton, Lieutenant Holland, Pyar, Lieutenant-Colonel Plowden and Captain Davies, Oxfordshire Light infantry Colonel Sawyer 45th Sikhs.

Kurram Moveable Column: Major McSwiney, Captain Scudamore, Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Murray, Assistant Commissary-General Captain Rogers Colonel Lieutenant Gordon Captain Shakespear, 6th Bengal Cavalry, Lieutenant-Colonel Money, Central India Horse, Major Kettlewell, Surgeon-Major Wills.

In addition to the transport officers mentioned in the preceding paragraphs the Commissary-General with the Tirah Expeditionary Force brought to special notice the services of the following regimental officers:—Captains Weller, S. D Browne, Cookson, C. Davies, Pollock, Colgrave.

Sir William Lockhart further records his acknowledgements to the native commanding officers of the various Imperial Service Corps. Among the honorary commissioned and warrant officers mentioned are Assistant Surgeons O'Connor, Charters, Hussey, Captain Bennett, Conductors Land and Thorne, Ordnance Department; Lieutenant Ezechiel, Conductor Falkland, Commissariat Transport Department; Lieuteuant J. McDermott, Conducter Morrison, Sub-Conductor Wiggins, Miscellaneous Department. The non-commissioned officers mentioned are Sergeant-Major Diblett, Sergeants Howell, Payne Blaker, Tibbs, G. C. White, A White, Pepper and Ashworth. The Revd. A. S. Dyer and the chaplains of all denominations were mentioned as having performed their duties satisfactorily.

Sir William Lockhart concludes by recording his indebtedness for advice and assistance to Sir Richard Udny, Colonel Warburton, Mr. King and other officers attached to the force in a political capacity.

Comprehensive lists of non-commissioned officers and men, British and native, who have shown conspicuous gallantry and whom it is intended to recommend for the Distinguished Conduct medal or Order of Merit will be submitted in a supplementary despatch.

THE VICEROY'S REMARKS.

The Governor-General in Council, in directing the publication of the above despatch, remarks: "These operations have been conducted in a country of great natural difficulty and against an enemy of extraordinary boldness and activity, armed moreover with weapons of precision, of which they thoroughly understood the use. The withdrawal from Tirah necessitated by the season formed part of the plan of operations from the outset, but it was nevertheless an operation of great difficulty under circumstances requiring not only most careful dispositions, but also a very high degree of discipline, courage and endurance on the part of the troops. The Governor-General concurs with the Commander-in-Chief in his opinion that the manner in which the campaign has been conducted reflects very great credit on Sir William Lockhart's skill and judgment and shares His Excellency's admiration of the devotion to duty and soldierly spirit displayed by the troops on all occasions. His Excellency tenders to all officers and men of the Tirah Expeditionary Force the cordial congratulations and thanks of the Government of India. His Excellency also fully shares in Sir George White's appreciation of the assistance rendered by the Imperial Service Troops and takes this opportunity of acknowledging the ready loyalty of the chiefs who have placed their regiments and transport trains at the disposal of the Government and personaly the services rendered by Sir Partab Singh, the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, the Maharaja Rana of Dholpur. His Excellency further desires to acknowledge the services rendered during the operations by the officers of the Staff at Army Head Quarters and of the Departments under the Government of India mentioned by the Commander-in-Chief, and cannot allow this opportunity to pass without conveying to Sir George White his sense of the distinguished ability with which on this occasion and throughout his term of office the responsible duties of Commander-in-Chief have been performed."

THE MULLAH ON THE WAR PATH.

THE following are translations of letters found in Saiyid Akbar's house in the Waran Valley:—

Translation of a letter from the Mulla of Adda to the Mulla of Sipak, the Mulla of Aka Khel, Badsha Sahib, Malik Amin Khan, Malik Sher Muhammad Khan, the Kamar Khel, Kambar Khel and Aka Khel Maliks, Maliks Yar Muhammad, Feroz, Wali Muhammad Khawas, Samandar and other people of Tirah, dated the 7th Rabie-us-Sani 1315 H.=5th September, 1897.

After compliments.—On the 1st Rabie-us-Sani 1315 H.=30th August, 1897, I determined with a lashkar to go out for a holy war and defend the religion of the Holy Prophet. When I reached Lashkar Killa and was staying there for the night, I received a "firman" from "Zia-ul-millati-uddin, the King of Islam, in reply to my petition, and understood its contents which were to the following effect:—

"You should wait for a few days in your former place, so that I may hold a consultation with the Khans, Maliks, chiefs and respectable men about *ghaza* and decide what steps should be taken. I will then either come myself or send to you my son for *jehad*, with our victorious troops and supplies, such as rations and food, and will let you know again. I will, with the greatest pleasure, make exertions in the way of *jehad*." I therefore write to you people that I have postponed my intentions for the reasons given above, but that you should on receipt of this

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PASSAGES booked by a Line of Steamers.
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The representatives of WM. HUTCHINSON and Co., on RECEIPT of INTIMATION, Board Steamers from the East on their arrival at Plymouth, at Gravesend, or at the Docks, to take instructions of Clearing and Forwarding Baggage, &c.

BOMBAY PLAGUE RELIEF FUND.

AN APPEAL.

THE most acute distress and want are now prevailing in the city owing to the ravages of the plague.

In many instances all the bread-winners of families have been cut off and only helpless women and little children remain. The effects of the plague from this point of view are far more disastrous than those of famine.

A fund has accordingly been opened with a view to supplying those in want with money, food or clothing, as the case may be, and donations are earnestly solicited.

Contributions may be forwarded to the Municipal Commissioner, or Mr. Ghellabhai Haridas, Bank of Bombay, who has kindly consented to act as treasurer to the fund, the distribution of which will be supervised by Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Weir and Mr. J. Leask, in consultation with the Commissioner.

P. C. H. SNOW,
Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay.

NOTES;
INDIAN LAND REVENUE,
FOR PRINCIPLE AND SOUND POLICY
BY
TODARMAL
Price, Re. 1. Postage half-anna.
To be had at the "Bombay Gazette" Bombay.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 7.

THERE is this evening nothing fresh to report, the latest news through Reuter having been noticed in our report under Saturday's date, and the Banks and local markets having been closed to-day for the "Holi" holiday.

The Receipts of Produce into Bombay on Saturday were as follows :—

Cotton	6,400 bales.
Wheat	4,891 cwts.
Linseed	4,312 ,,
Gingellyseed	6,101 ,,
Castorseed	1,070 ,,
Rice	25,987 ,,

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

THE BISN Co's ss Vadala, 2,163 tons, Captain J S Hutcheson, sailed yesterday for Rangoon in ballast.

THE s s Couch, 2,313 tons, Captain W J Stock, cleared yesterday, for Genoa and Marseilles, with a general cargo.

THE s s Ceres, 2316 tons, Captain C W Pickthorn, which was put back for repairs, will sail to-day for Calcutta in ballast.

THE BISN Co's ss Fultala, 2,092 tons, Captain A B Cane, arrived in harbour yesterday, from Rangoon, 25th February, with a cargo of rice.

THE Austrian Lloyd's S N Co's s s Vindobona, 2,639 tons, Captain C Androvich, arrived in harbour on Sunday evening, from Trieste, with a general cargo.

THE BISN Co's s s Dwarka, 759 tons, Captain J C Tice, will sail to-day, for Karachi, via Kathiawar coast ports, with a general cargo and 72 deck passengers.

THE ss Courland, 760 tons, Captain J Teulon, arrived in harbour yesterday from Beira, 17th February, in ballast and 150 deck passengers. The vessel is consigned to Mr Dada Abdoola.

THE BISN Co's ss Booldana, 2,143, tons, Captain J W Skinner, will sail to day, for Delogoa Bay, via Mombassa, Zanzibar, &c, with a general cargo and the following passengers :—Mr Basil Smith, W Nowrojee Muncherjee, Mr J N Gracias, Four Hospital assistants and 74 deck.

THE Wilson Line s s Othello, 3,327 tons, Captain B H Rogers, arrived in harbour on Sunday, from Hull 3rd February, with a general cargo and the following passengers :—Mrs and Miss Avant, Mr S A Edge, Mr H Phillips, Miss Vats, Miss Bennet, Miss Roberts and Miss Olas. The vessel is consigned to Messrs Finlay Muir and Co.

THE P & O Co's s s Ganges, 2,110 tons, Captain T F Creery, arrived in harbour yesterday, from Shanghai, 15th February, via intermediate ports, with Her Majesty's China and Australian Mails a general cargo and the following passengers.—From Shanghai —Mr C B Kohlar. From Hongkong—Mr Mooljl, Rev J C Gibson, Mr Fraser, and one deck. From Singapore Mr J D Iby. From Colombo—Mr and Mrs Stanley-Smith, Mr H E Carrsithen, and Mr Gillan. From Sydney—Mr Wyatt. From Melbourne—Miss Wood. From Yokohama—Mr E Geohegan From Calcutta—Mr H B Gough.

VESSELS IN DOCKS.—MARCH 7.

PRINCE'S DOCK.

Shd.	Vessels.	Ton.	Capt.	Destination.	Date.*	Agents.
H & J	Setos	1153	Jacobs	Zanzibar		6-3 F Heyer
K	City of Venice	2229	Snow	Karachi	1-3	F F & Co
L	Ponani	552	Ahmed	N F		S & Co
N	Armenia	2318	Shanklin	Liverpool	9-3	W & A G & Co
Q	Booldana	2141	Skinner	Zanzibar	7-3	M M & Co

HARBOUR WALL.

Mahanadi	547	Adam	Karachi		1-3	S & Co
Ceres	2316	Pickthorn	N F			K Nixon

VICTORIA DOCK.

Shd.	Vessels.	Ton.	Capt.	Destination.	Date.	Agents.
4	Veronia	1050	Tocque	China	15-3	P & O S N Co
6	Hydaspes	1912	Daniel	China		P & O Co
7	Carthage	2388	London	Aden	19-3	P & O S N Co
8	Blue Cross	1994	Storm	Liverpool		Bombay Co
9	Vindobona	2639	Androvich	Trieste	15-3	A L S N Co
11	Bej Pawady	458	Jungham	Mauritius		V D & Co
12	Couch	2314	Stock	Genoa	4-3	W & A G
14	Iran	4086	Hughes	Marseilles		K B & Co
15	Brindisi	2266	Watkins			P & O S N Co

HARBOUR WALL.

Dwarka	759	Tice	Karachi	8-3	M M & Co

MEREWETHER DRY DOCK.

Egypt	800	tons gross	P & O S N Co

* Probable date of departure.

Time Ball drops at Prince's Dock at Noon, or Greenwich meantime, 7h. 8m. 44·3s.

The Time Ball over the Clock Tower at the Bombay Castle continues to be dropped regularly at 1 p.m. of Colaba mean time, or 8h. 8m. 44·30 of Greenwich meantime.

ARRIVALS.

Mar.	Vessel.	Commander.	From.
6	Vindobona s s	Androvich	Trieste.
	Othello s	Rogers	Hull, Feb. 3.
7	Courland s s	Teulon	Beira, Feb. 17.
	Ganges s	Creery	Shanghai, Feb. 15.
	R. I. M. S. Canning	Rose	Karachi, Mar. 4.

DEPARTURES.

Mar.	Vessel.	Commander.	Destination.
7	Onda s	Wilson	Rangoon.
	Vadala s	Hutchison	Rangoon.
	Nubia (Transport)	Heming	Southampton.

The following vessels obtained their port clearances yesterday :—
Steamer Ceres, Pickthorn, for Calcutta.
,, Dwarka, Tice, for Karachi, &c.
,, Booldana, Skinner, for Delogoa Bay, &c.
,, Couch, Stock, for Genoa and Marseilles.

The following vessels entered for loading yesterday last :—
Steamer Henley, for Marseilles.
,, Henry Bolckow, for Aden.
,, Othello, for Hull via Karachi.
,, Vindobona, for Trieste, &c.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

ARRIVALS.—MARCH 4.

Scott, Lt, Bo. 12th Bo I, on leave, from Saugor.

MARCH 4.

Shortt, Capt, Punjab, R S F, on med. cert. from Sialkote.
Smith, Vety Capt, Bengal, A V D, for embarkation from Saharanpur.
Soutar, Lt, Bengal, 14th Lancers, for embarkation, from Allahabad.
Farbrother, Lt, Bengal, 5th D Guards, for embarkation, from Meerut.

MARCH 5.

Sherston, Major, Bengal, D A A G, from leave, from England.
Russell, Surg-Capt, Punjab, I M S, on med certificate, from Multan.
Rycroft, Major, Punjab, 11th Hussars, from leave, from England.
Denny, Major, Punjab, Northampton Regt, on exchange, from England.
Boswell, Major, Punjab, 33rd P I, from leave, from England.
Edwards, 2nd Lt, Punjab, 1st Staff Regt, on transfer, from Belfast.

DEPARTURES.—MARCH 5,

Sherston, Major, Punjab, D A A G, off leave, to Ranikhet.

MARCH 6.

Carter, Lt, Ms, R A, to rejoin, to Rangoon.

BOMBAY VOLUNTEER RIFLES.

REGIMENTAL ORDERS BY COLONEL R. S. BROWN V. D., COMMANDING B. V. R.

Bombay, 8th March, 1898.

1. The Regiment will parade on Thursday next the 10th instant, at 6-45 a.m. at the Gymkhana end of the parade ground for Commanding Officers parade. Dress—Review order, Khaki.
2. The class of instruction for proficiency certificates will assemble at Head-quarters at 5-30 p.m. on Friday the 11th instant. Members attending should bring their rifles, etc. Dress—Any.
3. Members who have not completed their class firing are requested to do so by the 31st instant.
4. B Company's prize firing will take place at Coorla to-morrow (Wednesday) the 9th instant.

By Order,
C. MOSS, Captain,
Adjutant, B. V. R.

BOMBAY VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY.

REGIMENTAL ORDERS BY MAJOR G. W. BOUGHTON, A.D.C., COMMANDING B. V. A.

Bombay, 8th March, 1898.

1. The following sub-divisional Drills will take place this week :—

(No. 1 Company 10 in R M L Gun Drill Wheal Cup.)
To-day, No. 1, Sub-dm, at 2-30 and No 4, at 9-15 p.m.
Wednesday, No. 3, at 5-30 and No. 2 at 9-15 p.m.
Thursday, No. 4, at 5-30, and No. 1 at 9-15 p.m.
Friday, No. 2, at 5-30 p.m.

(No. 2 Company.

No 2, Sub-division, at 9 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.
No. 3 Sub-division at 5-30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
No 4 Sub-division at 5-30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

2. There will be class firing at Coorla on Thursday. Train leaves the Victoria Terminus at 6 a.m., and Byculla 6-12 a.m., local time.
3. The Wheal Cup Competition will take place a Mahaluxmi Fort on Saturday next the 12th instant. Fall in at Scandle Point at 4-30 p.m. sharp. Dress—Drill order without arms, puttles to be worn.
4. The Range will be available for the Carter Cup, on Sundays the 13th and 20th instant—Nos. 1 of Sub-divisions will make their own arrangements and will notify this office on which day they will compete.

By Order
A. J. PEILE, Lieut, R.A.,
Adjutant B. V. A.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

[THE CHARGE FOR NOTIFYING A DOMESTIC OCCURRENCE IS TWO RUPEES. THE ANNOUNCEMENT MUST BE AUTHENTICATED.]

BOMBAY.

DEATH.

RANA—March 6, at her father's residence, Gilder Street, Grant Road, Bombay, of puerperal fever, Bai Shiribai, the beloved wife of Mr. Framjee Ardesir Rana, Vakil, High Court, and daughter of Mr. Cowasjee Dhunjeebhoy Rana. Deeply regretted by friends and relations.

OTHER PRESIDENCIES.

BIRTHS.

BROWNE—February 28, at Bakloh, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel A G F Browne, 2nd Battalion 4th Gurkhas, of a daughter.
EUCKER (Schleiermacher) -March 4, at Lahore, the wife of A Robert Eucker, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

BEWLEY—BEWLEY—February 21, at Christ's Church, Chittagong, by the Rev Arthur D Green, Chaplain, Walter Bewley, Executive Engineer, Assam-Bengal Railway Company, to Constance Lillie Bewley.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** ALL communications intended for publication in our columns, should be addressed to the Editor and not to any individual member of the staff.

The Bombay Gazette

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1898.

THE diminution to almost vanishing point of the balances of the Municipality resulted in friction between the Bombay Municipal Corporation and the Plague Committee which culminated on Saturday. The Committee is spending something like two and a-half lakhs of rupees per month, and of the three lakhs for which a precept was issued on the Municipality, only one lakh has been paid, and that ten days ago. On Saturday last, the Corporation, through the Municipal Commissioner, notified to Government their inability to provide any further funds for plague purposes. The extraordinary difficulty of the situation may be gathered from the fact that whereas cheques had been signed and sent out in payment of liabilities to the tune of Rs. 38,000, there was only a sum of Rs. 4,800 in the Bank of Bombay to the Committee's credit. In order to provide for immediate necessities it became necessary for Sir James Campbell to go over to Mr. Sleigh, the secretary of the Bank of Bombay, and arrange an overdraft of half-a-lakh of rupees on his own personal security. The matter being reported to Government, his Excellency the Governor met the Chairman of the Plague Committee, the Municipal Commissioner, and other prominent local officials at Government House, on Sunday morning, and the difficulties of the situation were discussed. An urgency meeting of the Municipal Corporation to discuss the situation has been called for Thursday.

MR. T. B. PANDIAN has published (Elliot Stock, 62, Paternoster Row, London) a book on "Indian Village Folk," to which the Archdeacon of London writes a short, appreciative preface. The writer sketches the village people of Southern India exactly as they are and as he knows them. He takes the classes in systematic precession, beginning with the village householder, selecting a typical house built of sunburnt bricks and clay, and its roof covered with palmirate palm leaves, describing it and the ordinary every-day life of its inmates. The inhabitants of an Indian village rise earlier than perhaps any other people in the world. Their clock is the sun, moon or stars. "When the sun appears as the dayspring, those of them who attend to the work of supplying flowers to the village temples, and to the villagers, set out for their gardens to pluck their flowers." The women rise and "show themselves to the goddess of ill-luck who is supposed to have waited before the door all night. They drive her away by sprinkling cowdung over the front and back yards of their houses, then sweep the house, clean cooking and drinking vessels." The men have gone to perform their morning ablutions. When they return the women fetch water and serve the morning meal to the men, eating themselves from what is left when the lords go to work. The floor is the table, plantain leaves or brass vessels the plates, and their hands spoons. The women's work through the day consists in pounding rice, grinding curry-stuff, and dressing vegetables. When the sun is in the middle of its course, the noontide meal is taken either in the fields or in the house. It consists of rice, vegetable sauce, pulse, buttermilk, the men as before eating first and going afterwards to the outer hall to chew betel-nut. The women eat what is left, and all rest, chatting or sleeping for an hour or two before the men return to work. The women begin about four to prepare for the evening meal. At 6 o'clock, the wife puts a small lamp in a hole in the wall, does puja before it, and strews ashes on her head, all the persons of the house doing the same as soon as they see the lamp for the first time in the evening. At 9 o'clock supper is over and the work of the day as well. The mother generally helps in the out-door, the wife doing the house-work. "It is a very common thing to find uncomfortable relations prevailing between the village mother-in-law and daughter-in-law. Perhaps ten out of a hundred live peaceably together, but ninety per cent. quarrel incessantly. Still it must be understood that they are not to be regarded as enemies until death. To-day they fight one another, to-morrow they lunch together. One day's fighting does not destroy another day's peace." We are glad after such a lively picture that Mr. Pandian hopes for the dawn of a better state of things in the rural districts of India. The villager does not enjoy his earnings in selfish wise. "There are many calls on Rama's poor purse. The priest, the beggars, the poets, the pious, the village policeman, the weddings and the funerals of his relatives—all of them have a share of Rama's earning."

The morning star leads the business of the village. . . . They talk to each other thus : "The morning star has risen, hurry on!" The priest blows the holy shell in the temple. Parents wake the school-boy, the men who work the water-lifts start watering the fields, the shepherds leave their flocks in charge of their dogs and go to seek their morning meal. The hunter hides in the bushes between jungle and jungle, to shoot deer and antelope on their return from the fields to their home in the jungle. The oil-monger goes with his oil vessels to sell oil in distant hamlets. In the rains when clouds darken the sky and hide nature's clocks from the villagers, they obey the noisy crow and begin the day to his music. The reason of the frequency of village fires fills one with despair. All the houses are of course very combustible, and when a fire occurs in one, the probability is that all those around are burnt down too. The simple villagers attribute the misfortune to the action of a devil. You get command of a devil in the following manner :—"A man must undergo certain ceremonies and master certain charms. He must have a sloth, and be of undaunted courage, strong will, and great physical endurance. He must spend a whole Friday fasting and praying, and then take the sloth in his left hand, proceed to the cremation ground, take water from the eyes of the sloth, and apply it to his own eyes, when he immediately sees an army of small devils, each holding his rod of office in his hand." To get hold of one of these rods is what the hero must do. The devils come round and tease and frighten him, all attacking him at once, but being a man of courage, he takes it coolly, and watching his opportunity, snatches one of the rods. Now the unfortunate devil whose rod is taken is excommunicated by the others and cannot re-enter their high society. He follows the man home, ever hoping, if a devil can hope, to get back his rod of office. The man is gay, he knows he has gained a willing servant of singular capacity for doing any evil deed he has a mind to. All that he wants he orders this defenceless devil to fetch, and if he has a grudge against a neighbour, what so easy as to tell his familiar to set fire to the thatch of his roof? We are let into many other harmless secrets of the simple rural life of the village folk by Mr. Pandian. The dhobie, in his position as "son of the village," has many privileges. His house is built by the people on a piece of ground belonging to the village. They buy him a patient donkey or two, he washes the clothes at a small fee of sixpence a house per year, as well as a handful of cooked food twice daily for himself and his family. At harvest time he gets a small share of the grain, and at weddings and funerals he has fourpence, and spreads cloths in the pendal, he is occasionally employed as the carrier of ominous news, and is then paid well, with gold or silver bangles, new cloths, or a pagoda, about four shillings. The very poor people of the village make friends with him, and he grants them loans for nothing of the clothes he has to wash. He may clothe himself and his family variously with the clothes "at the wash." It is but fair to say that having figured in these borrowed plumes, he washes them again before returning them to their owners. They on their part show a delicate reserve in looking the other way if they meet the dhobie or his wife in their cloths or sarees. The method in which the dhobie carries on his love affairs is amusing. He must not directly address his inamorata, but when employed beating the heart out of our clothes on the cold stones, he can sing her praises. It is by no means lost time, for she is near at hand, washing too. He describes in song the position, parentage, and beauty of the girl; she hears with delight, and improvises in her turn : "O thou young man, black as oil, strong as stone, sweet as sugarcane. I cannot ever forget thy face. My mother has promised to give me the young and beautiful colt as my dowry. I saw thy foot-print and the foot-print of thy black donkey. When will the day come when I may get a handful of betel-nut from thy hands?" These statements nearly break his heart and he says so. "Thy love kills me. I can give my four donkeys for thee! I will work for thy father and for thee all the days of my life," and so on.

The writer deplores the expense connected with marriages, and says that in consequence of the heavy debt entailed, the bridegroom "soon after his marriage becomes a care-stricken and miserable man. The poorer classes, when they are married, begin to live a most miserable life. They have to work hard day and night for their wages, and out of these they have to pay a portion regularly towards the marriage debt, often for several years." Of the village doctor we are told that "ten out of a hundred of his patients who are suffering from serious diseases will be sure to lose their lives, and so one of his pills is sarcastically called the pill that sends into the other world." The pay is low for this powerful treatment. "But these cunning angels of death often demand a separate and extra sum for pretending to drive the devil from a sick patient." With regard to the skill of the village optician we are told that out of the 50,000 blind persons in Southern India there are few who have become blind through natural causes." The Brahmin here as elsewhere has a good time. He is wanted at all the ceremonies attending the important epochs in the lives of his parishioners. It is regarded as a great sin for a villager to receive anything from a Brahmin priest free of charge, but it is a blessing to give him anything. If a man have a fine black cow, it is good to give it to the priest, and in return to receive forgiveness of his own sins and those of his forefathers. The priest teaches that it is a sin to keep a black cow in the village. He consequently gets an income on which he can live very comfortably. His Aryan blood and his long ages of civilisation and culture give him an important position in village society. He is really the most intelligent man in the village, and he has introduced several useful institutions in the name of religion. Wherever the institutions and regulations of the priest are observed, savageness and vulgarity are certainly moderated, the village money-lender is called in to help to pay the tax-gatherer, when a son or daughter is to be married, and "above all when the villages cannot be quiet but must commence a lawsuit against friend or foe. The money lenders are united amongst themselves, if one of them fails, the others contribute a certain sum per head until forty or fifty thousand rupees are collected; then one of the community takes the man and his collection into partnership. They have a general charity fund to which each contributes three per cent. of his profits. The fund grows enormously and is managed by one of their chief men who lends out the money at interest. They do not, however, help the villagers in general to become rich. The village munsiff comes in for lively condemnation from Mr. Pandian. He declares that "the corruption and fraud of the subordinate village officers are not known either to the Government or to their superior officers. A village is too often a hotbed of trouble and a place of tyranny and wickedness. Both the village accountant and the village munsiff are sworn robbers, students of one school, and birds of the same feather. The munsiff will sell a man for a farthing and kill a man for a penny. What famine, pestilence, and war are to a nation, a village munsiff is to the poor Indian villager." The *Punchayet*, on the contrary, he considers an institution that should be encouraged, though he sees that since the Indian bar is overcrowded with lawyers, in all the cities and towns, the *Punchayet* system is falling into disuse. Mr. Pandian leaves no class of villager unnoticed. We read his book with interest and pleasure, learning much of the ways and means of the Indian rustic at work and play.

FOR too long a time the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce have left it to sister institutions, particularly the Calcutta Chamber, to be the exponents of commercial opinion for the benefit of Government on the all-important question of the currency. This reticence on the part of the Chamber (only broken by the appeal made last October for opportunities of considering the American proposal for re-opening the Mints before any pledges to accept the same were given) is not without its advantages. The representation forwarded to the Bombay Government a few days ago for transmission to Calcutta will have greater weight than would have been the case if half-a-dozen letters had been submitted in the last two or three years. The document also possesses weight because the condition of commercial affairs has for some time past been very unsatisfactory, not to say critical, especially in our own city. "With the export season only just commencing," says the letter, "those engaged in trade find themselves for a second year face to face with a bank rate of 12 to 13 per cent. per annum and accommodation almost unobtainable on any terms. The severe strain thereby entailed on the trade of the country of necessity exercises a most adverse influence and is practically equivalent to a heavy indirect tax upon a large portion of the produce and manufactures of India." No one can dispute the accuracy of this picture of existing financial conditions. But when the letter goes on to speak of "the contraction of the currency consequent on the closing of the Mints" as the main influence operating to produce this contraction, many observers will think that the stringency of the money market could be more accurately attributed to the uncertainties of exchange and the consequent outflow of capital from India to Europe. The object in view in closing the Mints was not, as so many people erroneously think, to give a "scarcity value" to the rupee; it was to stop India being put to grave disadvantage in her purchases from gold standard countries by having to pay for them at a constantly diminishing ratio of exchange. So far as this object has been attained the legislation of 1893 has been successful. But the experience of the past five years has shown that in itself the refusal to allow India to be made the silver sink of the world is not sufficient to secure the stable ratio of exchange without which the confidence of gold capitalists in Indian securities will not be obtained to such an extent as to lead to the transmission of capital from England to this country in times of threatened stringency. The representation of the Committee of the Chamber does not mention by name the Lindsay scheme, but it expresses the opinion that any attempt to accumulate gold in India will prove futile, and that even if it did succeed, the maintenance of the sixteenpeny level would only be possible so long as the strain on the money market is maintained.

From these opinions the inference is drawn that "in the absence of a gold currency the establishment of a gold standard for this country is only possible by means of an absolute and permanent guarantee on the part of Government of the exchangeability of rupees for gold at a fixed value." The proposal thus adumbrated is one of great importance, and Government will naturally hesitate before taking upon itself a financial responsibility so grave as this. It is not unlikely that a stable par of exchange will either be secured by the imposition of a sliding duty on silver imports, or by a large gold loan raised in London, to form the gold reserve. The Committee of the Chamber, however, express the belief that the only two possible alternatives to a Government guarantee are "the adoption of a gold standard based upon the convertibility of the rupee in gold or a return to the old silver standard." It seems to us that no worse disaster financially speaking could come upon the country than the latter "alternative," unless and until silver is rehabilitated in Europe. That American politicians should suggest the re-opening of the Mints is not surprising in view of the problems presented by the United States currency, but that the Chamber of Commerce should do so can only be explained by its being borne in mind that export houses are largely represented in its counsels, and that they naturally look at the question of exchange from the standpoint of the seller of Indian goods, rather than that of the purchaser of European articles and the taxpayer who has to find the money for the Home charges. The arguments against the reopening of the Mints were ably set forth in the despatch of the Government of India to the Secretary of State, on September 16th last, and in view of the pronouncement therein that the change would have most disastrous results, it is scarcely likely that Government will take any steps whatever in the direction of reopening the question. The Chamber admits that a return to the silver standard would be beset with many difficulties, but urges that this should be included in the scope of the reference to the Committee of financial experts that it suggests should be appointed to consider the currency question in the light of the events which have transpired since the Herschell Committee sat five years ago. A serious objection to the appointment of such a Committee is that it would lead to further delay in

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

THE PORT ARTHUR QUESTION.

LONDON, MARCH 6.

Reuter wires from Peking that Russia is negotiating for the lease of Port Arthur.

RUSSIAN DEMANDS ON CHINA.

The *Times'* Peking correspondent states that Russia has demanded of China the surrender of her sovereign rights over Port Arthur and Talienwan on the same conditions as granted to Germany at Kiaochau, also the right to construct a railway from Petuna to Mudken and Port Arthur, and in the event of non-compliance threatens to send troops to Manchuria.

A reply is demanded within five days.

THE OPERATIONS ON THE PERSIAN FRONTIER.

Reuter wires from Teheran that the Governor of the Province of Kerman has driven the rebels out of the forts at Geh and Fanoch, and that the murderers of Mr. Graves fled to the hills, where they will be attacked.

THE NILE EXPEDITION.

The Sirdar Kitchener's headquarters are at Berber. He holds strong positions from Berber to Atbara.

Osman Digna has advanced to within forty miles of Shendy.

THE PLAGUE AND THE MECCA PILGRIMAGE.

The Quarantine Board have recommended the Egyptian Government to prohibit the pilgrimage to Mecca owing to the plague.

FATAL DUEL IN ITALY.

ROME, MARCH 6.

Signor Cavallotti, a deputy of the Italian Chamber, has been killed in a duel with swords by Signor Macola, another Deputy of the Chamber, owing to a press polemic.

THE MAILS.

ADEN, MARCH. 7.

The P. and O. Company's steamer Caledonia, with English mails of the 25th ult., left here for Bombay, at 5 p.m., yesterday.

THE OFFENDING BALUCHIS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CALCUTTA, MARCH 7.

An official report, dated Quetta Saturday, says :—At a durbar held at Grah on Wednesday all principal rind motibars of Mand were present and most submissive. Men who cut the telegraph wire at Paleri last December have surrendered themselves.

DEATH OF A SENIOR PILOT.

Mr. Paulson, one of the oldest pilots on the Hooghly, died suddenly, yesterday afternoon, from sunstroke, on the bridge of the vessel he was bringing up the river to Calcutta. He leaves a wife and several children.

THE LATE DASTUR NOSHERWANJEE AND THE PARSEE MATRIMONIAL COURT.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

SURAT, MARCH 4.

A very large and representative gathering of the Parsee community met at Daria Mehel, this afternoon, at the invitation of Sardar Davar Edaljee Khurshedjee Modi, at which it was decided that three names should be submitted to the Collector, namely, Dastur Rustomjee, Messrs. Barzorjee Vakil and Adarjee Deputy, for the vacancy created by the death of the late Dastur Nosherwaajee, as delegate of the Parsee Matrimonial Court, and that it should be expressly communicated to the Collector that the community give special preference to Dastur Rustomjee as a fit person to fill the vacancy created by the late Dastur's demise.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

LONDON, MARCH 5.

The Clan Line steamer Clan Forbes arrived here this morning.

ADEN, MARCH 6.

The Austrian Lloyd's steamer Imperator, from Bombay, arrived here this afternoon.

MARCH 7.

The Austrian Lloyd's steamer Trieste, from Trieste, left here this morning, for Bombay, via Karrachi.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL NEWS.

LONDON, MARCH 5.

The Liverpool Cotton Market closed quiet. Surats dull.

Good Bhownuggur	3.
The Manchester Market has been firm.	
2½ per cent. Consols	112 1-4 ex.
3 per cent. Rentes	104 1-4
3½ per cent. Sterling Loan	115
3½ per cent. Rupee Paper	63 5 8
Bar Silver	25 3-8

ARRIVAL OF THE R. I. M. S. CANNING.

THE Royal Indian Marine steamer Canning, Commander G. A. Rose, arrived in harbour, yesterday morning, from Karachi, which port she left on the 5th instant, with the 25th Bombay Rifles and details, consisting of 6 officers, one lady, one child, 3 warrant officers, 2 women, and 2 children, 16 native officers, 653 men rank-and-file, 75 followers, and 5 horses. The 25th Bombay Rifles will take up the place of the 22nd Bombay Infantry in Bombay, which has left for Quetta. The regiment was landed at the Sassoon Dock, thence they marched to their quarters next to Crawford Market. The following are the names of officers :—Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. G. Beckham and child, captain W. L. Conran, Captain J. Sillery, and Lieut. C. H. Prevost of the 25th Bo. Rifles; Surgeon-Captain J. H. Rivers, A. M. Staff; and Lieut. J. C. Graham, 2nd High. L. Infantry.

DR. NANSEN's impressions of the United States, it seems, were not altogether pleasant. He was received with courtesy and enthusiasm, but in his opinion American life has some drawbacks. One of these is the American reporter. Dr. Nansen was plagued morning, noon, and night by the representatives of enterprising newspapers wishing to interview him. On one occasion he was awakened at two in the morning by a reporter who desired to know at what time he intended to leave the town next day. At first Dr. Nansen thought the man was the hotel porter, and on discovering his mistake his language was more vigorous than polite.

THE Hon'ble Dr. Duncan, referring to the budget estimates for Masulipatam Municipality for 1898-99, remarks that the Council's proposal to close the school for [illegible]men's children at Valandapalem appears to him to have been made without consulting the officers of the Education Department, and pending the opinion of the Inspector of Schools on the subject the current year's allotment for that school may stand. Commenting on the budget estimates for Erode Municipality, Dr. Duncan strongly urges assistance for payment of salary grants to the lower secondary department of Dasappaiyar's High School, a well-conducted private school without which the town would be without a High School. He takes exception to the reason assigned by the Council for refusal—lack of funds—on the ground that a monthly grant is made to the Town Reading Room. He decidedly objects to public money being spent for such a purpose so long as the lower secondary department of the only high school in the town is denied a grant on the plea of want of funds.

BOMBAY IMPROVEMENT BILL.

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

THE Report of the Select Committee appointed to consider Bill No. I. of 1898 (a Bill for the improvement of the City of Bombay and to provide space for its future expansion) was issued last night as under :—

We, the members of the Select Committee appointed to consider Bill No. I. of 1898 (a Bill of the improvement of the City of Bombay and to provide space for its future expansion), have the honour to report as follows, after considering the several representations which have been addressed to us by the Corporation, the Chamber of Commerce and the Mill-owners' Association.

2. The subjects which have principally engaged our attention may conveniently be arranged under the following heads :—

I.—CONSTITUTION.

In deference to a widely-expressed view that the Mill interest should be directly represented, a majority of the Committee are of opinion that there should be one additional elected Trustee, to be returned by the Mill-owners' Association ; and this change has been embodied in Section 5 of the Bill. In a project which must largely affect the location and the provision of suitable house accommodation for the classes which supply mill operatives, it seems only reasonable that the mill industry should be directly represented.

We are fully alive to the arguments which may be urged against increasing the number of the Board, but do not think that this consideration should outweigh the importance of the interests to which we have referred, nor do we see how any other arrangement commanding general approval could be made for securing the representation of those interests. Moreover, it may be observed that for the Chairman to be able to exercise his privilege of a casting vote, there is a theoretical advantage in having an even number of Trustees. One member of the Committee, however, desires that it should be stated in the Report that a preferable alternative would be to secure a direct representation of the mill interests by substituting the Millowners' Association for the Port Trust as an electoral body, thus leaving the number of members on the Board as originally proposed.

3. Amongst minor matters affecting the constitution of the Board we have, in deference to the opinion expressed by the Corporation, provided that the members returned by that body shall be elected by open voting and not by secret ballot, the object being to emphasize the responsibility of selecting persons specially qualified for the discharge of the important duties appertaining to the Board. We have also recommended that the members of the Board first elected and appointed should hold office for a period of not less than two years, in order that the general principles on which the operations of the Board are to be conducted may be firmly established before any avoidable changes are made.

4. We have also provided that the maximum salary of the Chairman should be limited to Rs. 3,000 and that the fees payable to a member of the Board should not in any one month exceed Rs. 200. We have further inserted amendments to secure that the delegation of the powers of the Board to a Committee shall be restricted by bye-laws requiring the sanction of Government, and we have inserted more stringent provisions as to the power of executing contracts.

II.—OPERATIONS OF THE BOARD.

5. We have revised in several respects the particulars connected with the preparation, publication and submission of schemes, and in order to secure the utmost publicity and consideration, and at the same time to emphasize the intimate association which should characterise the relations between the Board and the Corporation have provided that the Corporation should be furnished with a copy of every proposal in order that the Corporation may have the opportunity of making any representation which they may deem fit before a scheme is ratified by Government.

Furthermore we have provided in the clauses regulating the compulsory initiation of an improvement scheme that the Commissioner shall be bound to take action on a Resolution of the Corporation, as on a complaint from any of the persons mentioned in Section 26 (2).

6. We have also introduced a new section in order to avoid any conflict of executive authority in regard to the formation or alteration of streets comprised within the area of a scheme until such time as the streets so formed or altered are in a condition to be transferred as public streets to the Municipality, and likewise have inserted provision to govern cases in which the operations of the Board may be affected by the rights or interests of the Bombay Tramway Company or the Bombay Gas Company. Moreover, as the result of improvement operations on any large scale must be to displace a considerable number of tenants, who might find it impossible to obtain fresh quarters without intensifying the evil of overcrowding which it is the purpose of the Bill to remove, it is desirable that accommodation should be provided for such persons before any extensive demolition takes place : and to secure this object we have proposed an alteration in the Bill by which arrangements for housing the working classes may be undertaken in anticipation of the approval of other parts of a "scheme."

7. In regard to the compulsory acquisition of land we consider that the period of notice should be the same as under the Land Acquisition Act, and as the provision that an order of the special Tribunal should be enforced by the High Court is of doubtful legality, we have, on the advice of the Advocate-General, substituted the Court of Small Causes for the High Court. While retaining the provision that the owners of any premises shall for the purposes of compensation be estopped from estimating the rental which he derives at a higher rate than that which he has returned for the purposes of Municipal assessment, we have inserted words to make it clear that such estoppel shall not effect any increase in the letting value due to improvements made subsequent to such return and prior to the notification declaring that the premises are to be acquired. We have further modified this section of the Bill so as to restrict its application to returns made after the Act comes into force.

8. We have transferred to that part of the Act which deals with the execution of reclamation schemes, the matter originally contained in sub-sections (3), (4) and (5) of Section 53 under the head of Transfer of Property, at the same time making it clearer that the cases in respect of which no compensation will be claimable on account of the enforcement of an order of Government, are those only in which buildings have been erected or other acts done in direct contravention of an express order or prohibition. We have found ourselves unable to give effect to a suggestion made by two members of the Committee that, in order to ensure the greatest possible caution in proceeding with reclamation schemes, Government should be debarred from sanctioning any such scheme proposed by the Board, but disapproved by the Corporation until it had first been submitted to an independent Committee of experts to be appointed half by Government and half by the Corporation.

9. In regard to police accommodation schemes we have endeavoured to simplify the wording of Section 40, and after careful consideration we have proposed that all police accommodation provided by the Board in the execution of a scheme shall, after the expiration of the first lease, during the period of which the capital debt will be liquidated by annual payments by way of rent, vest in the Corporation to be used for the same purpose and subject only to such rent as will suffice to pay for maintenance charges and rates and taxes.

III.—PROPERTY, REVENUE AND DIVISION OF PROFITS.

10. Under this head the first subjects to be considered are the schedules of Landed Estates which are to vest in the Board. In respect to these lands, both those belonging to the Government and those belonging to the Corporation, it has been asserted that the values as entered are underestimated, but neither on the one side nor the other are we disposed to make any change, not only because the superior correctness of any revised valuation would be highly problematical, but because the difference would not be of any great moment inasmuch as all revenue-producing lands are ultimately to revert to the present proprietors. In the schedule of Government properties one item, namely, the Marine Lines Estate, has been amended by the exclusion of that part of the Esplanade used as a parade ground by the Marine Battalion, which had been inadvertently included, and in the schedule of Municipal properties ten thousand square yards reserved for, but not now required for the Health Department Stables, and certain other vacant plots, have been inserted at the valuation given by the Commissioner.

11. As regards revenue-producing lands, that is lands to be appropriated for building purposes, whether belonging to the Government or to the Corporation, the terms are a ground-rent at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the scheduled values shall be paid by the Board from the tenth year of its existence, or from such subsequent period as may be approved by the Government of India or the Corporation, respectively. A provision empowering the Corporation so to prolong the period of exemption has been added to the Bill. The Board will have the privilege of letting these lands on building leases for 99 years, and on the expiration of the leases the lands with buildings thereon will vest exclusively in Government or the Corporation as the case may be.

12. With reference to lands to be dedicated to the public as open spaces, we have found it necessary to explain more clearly the financial terms of the tenure, which were incorrectly stated in the Bill as originally drafted. These terms are that the capital cost, as valued in the schedule, shall be liquidated by annual payments extending over 60 years, these payments not to commence until the Board is realizing such annual profits as to be independent of the sums receivable from the Corporation, whether on account of the 2 per cent. rate or on account of the enhanced rateable value of the areas concerned. Whilst recognizing that these terms are generally reasonable, we consider that it would be premature to bind the Board irrevocably to this or that appropriation of any particular area, since many years must elapse before any sums will be payable in respect of land set apart as open spaces, and in the interval it may be found desirable to resume some portions of these lands for public purposes. As it will be the business of the Board to consider the general improvement of the city and to reserve open spaces wherever they may think them most required, we are of opinion that they should have an equally free hand in determining the allocation of the vacant lands comprised in the schedule, and it appears to us sufficient that the Bill should prescribe the terms to govern the assignment of such lands whether on the one tenure or the other. Pending such determination we consider that the Board should in respect of the Kennedy Sea Face, the Secretariat plot, and the Cooperage plot, merely exercise the revenue rights and discharge the liabilities which now appertain to Government, and that subject to this proviso there is nothing to be gained by now classifying the Government lands in two distinct schedules, Schedule C has, therefore, been amended accordingly. We also recommend a further proviso that the Flats shall in no case be built upon and no capital value shall be assessed in respect of them.

13. It will be observed that this amendment does not entail any alteration of principle, but simply reserves for future determination a question which may be more profitably settled when both the public and the Government are in a position, after some years of the Board's operations, to form a better opinion than is at present possible as to the best permanent disposal of the lands in question.

14. Next to the question of lands, the subject under this head which has most engaged the attention of the Committee is the endeavour to express in less complicated words than those of the original Bill the nature of the revenue transactions between the Board and the Corporation. With this object in view the old Section 63 has been completely redrafted so as to make it clear that what the Corporation have to pay is 2 per cent. on the rateable value of all taxable properties in the City, this contribution being enhanced, in the case of ordinary properties, by rates derived from areas occupied by any increase which may accrue from the rateable value of the property. On the other hand, the Board have to give credit to the Corporation for any loss of revenue which may occur after the first five years of the Board's existence, and which may be due to a diminution in rateable value, caused for instance by the reservation of open spaces within the areas occupied ; and also for any expense incurred by the Municipal Executive in maintaining and lighting the roads formed by the Board or in maintaining and cleansing the sewers, &c.

15. Lastly, we have considered whether it would be possible to eliminate the sections which impose on the city a contingent liability in the event of the Board making default. We consider it in the highest degree improbable, having regard to the conditions of sanction which must precede the execution of any scheme that any occasion will arise for having recourse to the provisions of these sections, and this being so, it has been suggested in our discussions that their omission would be conducive to careful and cautious administration of the resources placed at the Board's disposal, but a majority of us have come to the conclusion that their retention is essential to the financial success of the Board's operations and certainly to the interests of the tax-payer.

IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

16. We have been advised that Section 1 (2) should safeguard the provisions of the Indian Telegraphs Act as well as those of the Indian Railways Act, and an addition has been made accordingly. It has been suggested that with a view to future Railway requirements some excess stipulations as to the reservation of land should be inserted in the Bill, but we have come to the conclusion that as Government have full powers to resume and acquire lands needed for any public purpose, and that as before sanction is accorded to any scheme all Departments likely to be affected by it will be consulted, no special reference in the Bill to Railway interest is required.

17. The only other point which occurs to us as deserving special mention is the inclusion of the Board's debentures in the definition of "Public Securities," coupled with an addition to Section 48 which enables the Board to invest in their own securities without such investment operating as a *pro tanto* redemption of a loan.

18. We append a statement of the amendments proposed by us in the Bill.

19. The Bill was published in Marathi and Gujarati in the *Bombay Government Gazette* of the 14th February 1898. We have ordered that the Bill, as now amended, and this report, be similarly translated and published.

(Sd.) E. C. K. OLLIVANT.
WALTER C. HUGHES.
A. S. MORIARTY.
PHEROZESHAH M. MEHTA.
SCROPE B. DOIG.
BHALCHANDRA KRISHNA.
A. ABERCROMBIE.
FAZULBHOY VISRAM.

Bombay, 7th March 1898.

LADY SANDHURST'S VISIT TO ST. MARY'S.

THE St. Mary's Institution and its surroundings presented a lively appearance yesterday afternoon, when sher Excellency Lady Sandhurst paid a visit to the institution. Flags were displayed on various sides of the school building, and the reception hall was tastefully decorated with evergreens. Her Excellency, with Captain Levett, Aide-de-Camp, came shortly after half-past three, and was received at the main entrance of the school by his Grace the Very Revd. Father Dalhoff, the Archbishop of Bombay, Revd. Father Weingarten, Rector of St. Mary's School, and other Fathers belonging to the institution. Her Excellency was thence taken to the reception room, when the School Band, under the direction of Father Schaefer, gave a cordial welcome. A selection from "Old yet New" having been played, a welcome song was sung by the pupils.

Master H. Pereira then came forward, and in a clear voice read out the following address from the students of St. Mary's :—

TO HER EXCELLENCY LADY SANDHURST, C.I.

The flower we prize above the rest
Is that which heralds early Spring ;
So, too, that star is held most blest
Which news of coming day doth bring,
'Tis thus your Ladyship appears,—
A Herald in these days of ill,
To wean the mind from weary fears
And bid each one be hopeful still.

Bombay now wintry torpor feels :
'Tis not with snow and ice she toils,
Her blight not sage of plants congeals,
But Plague her children's life-blood moils.
Long Night upon Bombay has set,
But not of falling sunlight born ;
'Tis gloom that death and grave beget
Which holds o'er her its sway forlorn.
In this dread spell of wintry death,
In this her life's beclouded night,
Bombay conjures Spring's earliest breath
To kindle life's fast waning light.

And lo ! her Spring is e'en at hand :
Her guardians bring the needful aid,
And by their wise and valiant stand
Death's wilful course shall soon be staid,
And, Lady Sandhurst, you not least
Are helping on the hopeful change ;
With kindly acts you've never ceased
To compass charity's whole range.

The threshold of the homes of pain
Was never barrier to your love ;
The poor, the old, alike proclaim
Your deeds approved by God above,
Nor are the youth at school forgot,
Or those that teach them duty's way ;
How'er the times affect their lot,
Your presence brings them hope's bright ray.

To-day St. Mary's Institute
Its portals gladly opes to you,
And tenders you the gay salute
Of all its inmates here in view.
We boys, to raise the festive day,
Have bouts prepared at youthful games,
In music and æsthetic play,
And art that martial breast inflames.

But what will give you pleasure more,
Is that we thankfully record :
The Plague is stranger to our door,
Thence barred by mercy of the Lord.

Thrice joyful, then, may be to you
The memory of your kindness shown,
As we shall ever find it now
When these our youthful days have flown.

—We beg to remain, Your Ladyship, your most obedient Servants.—THE STUDENTS OF ST. MARY'S.

After the presentation of the address, two youngsters, Masters Lys and Boyd, presented two pretty bouquets, which her Excellency graciously accepted. The Rector then announced that at the request of her Excellency the next day would be observed as a holiday ; which announcement was received with cheers.

A duet, entitled "Schoolmaster," was next given, in which Mr. O. D. Sylva acted the schoolmaster, and this afforded great amusement. It was followed by a hunting song, which was well rendered. Her Excellency was then shown Lord Harris' Memorial Challenge Shield, which was deservedly won by the school last year on the cricket field. Lady Sandhurst then inspected the different parts of the building, and on returning sat down to witness the dumb-bell and Indian club exercises as well as the physical drill, which took place in the compound at the rear part of the building. Sergeant Wells had the direction of these exercises, and the boys appeared to have received good training in that important branch of their education. At about 5 o'clock her Excellency left the school, when three cheers were given by the students.

CALCUTTA NOTES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CALCUTTA, MARCH 2.

WITH money in the bazaar hardly procurable at fourteen and fifteen per cent. the tension during the past week in business circles in Calcutta has naturally been great. The annual meeting of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce last Monday, therefore, was looked forward to with even more than usual attention, and those who crowded into the Royal Exchange rooms to hear Mr. Allan Arthur's speech were not disappointed. In the name of the commercial community Mr. Arthur declared the position to have become intolerable. These are strong words, but the sense of the meeting was evidently with him, and it was a representative one of the merchants of Calcutta who are not in the habit of exaggeration. Mr. Arthur urged that no time should be lost in taking action to bring about fixity of sterling exchange, though he declined to hamper the Government by advocating any one hard and fast line of action. As, however, only one scheme is, practically speaking, on the tapis, this attitude does not render the moral support afforded by the Chamber of Commerce meeting to Mr. Lindsay's scheme any the less strong, and the opinion of most men one meets seems to be that the occasion of the Budget Statement will see definite action taken by Government in this direction. The bazaar is evidently of the same opinion, for one hears that the probability of the additional import duty on silver, which Mr. Lindsay recommends, is already beginning to be discounted. While native speculators are eager to buy silver which is on the spot, however, they fight shy of all shipments that will arrive after the Budget day. It is of course very difficult to get at the views held upon financial questions here, but I am inclined to think—and the attitude of the bazaar I have just referred to supports the supposition—that of Mr. Lindsay's alternative proposals, of increasing the gold conversion fund or of imposing a prohibitive duty on silver importations, the latter has the most probability of being accepted. In this case, given a continuance of the present consumption of silver for ornaments and no dislocation of the existing balance of trade, Government should not only keep exchange at 1s. 4d., but net a very large sum out of the undertaking. I have heard the probable profit estimated at as high as from ten to twelve crores annually, and have no reason to suppose this is an exaggeration, in which case a source of new revenue will have been discovered more valuable than that of opium. Somebody will undoubtedly have to pay it. As its effect, however, will be to restore the intrinsic value of silver ornaments to very much the same position in regard to the rupee as was occupied before the closing of the Mints, it will be easy to argue that it will not be felt. Meanwhile the silver speculator is on tenter hooks, and the Finance Department will need to look well to the seals on their office boxes, for I should be afraid to say what a few hours' advance intimation of the intentions of Government in the matter would be worth in the bazaar. And after what has happened on previous occasions, he would be a brave man who would back the ramifying official channels, through which the information will have to pass in London and India, against unauthorised leakage.

Wednesday saw the very striking ceremony of the unveiling of Lord Roberts' statue, which all seem now to be agreed is a work of art excellent in its realism and unconventionality. If a word of criticism can be permitted in connection with what is so fine a tribute to the late Commander-in-Chief, it would be that Lord Roberts' great achievements as a soldier are what are recognised in the erection of a statue to his memory, and that his victories in Afghanistan and army administration in India are things that speak for themselves, and are altogether separate from and not to be mentioned in connection with a book he once wrote of his doings. The difficulty, of which the Viceroy very reasonably complained, of addressing so great an audience in the open air and in a Calcutta south wind, however, is more than sufficient excuse for what might otherwise have seemed disproportionate reference to Lord Roberts' literary efforts, in some of the speeches. The memorial itself is a very fine one, and Lord Elgin's charge to his successors in Calcutta to preserve it as the monument of one well worthy to take his place among the men who have built up and defended the Indian Empire, was happily appropriate to the occasion.

Of other functions during the week the most important have been the public reception at Belvedere on Monday, which closed the very pleasant series of garden parties given this season by the Lieutenant-Governor, an "At home" at the Saturday Club, where the acting Lieutenant-Governor-elect of the North-West Provinces, and Mrs. Latouche received their numerous Calcutta friends on Thursday afternoon, and the annual conversazione of the Mahomedan Literary Society in the Town Hall, the same evening. The last named function was an interesting one, and the presence at it of the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor and several members of Council and other leading Europeans is indicative of the friendly feelings which are entertained towards the Mahomedan community, of which the Literary Society represents an influential section.

THE IN-COMING MAIL.

THE following is a list of passengers, per s. s. Caledonia, expected to arrive in Bombay at day light, on Friday :—

Andain, Capt J M	Hutchinson, Mrs J
Ash, Mr	Hasson, Mr A
Bolton, Mrs and infant	Hannay, Mr
Barkar, Mr P W	Hanson, Mr J W
Battye, Miss	Hart, Mr W E
Bownlow, Mrs and infant	Hill, Capt, Mrs, and 2 infants
Benson, Mr C	Husain, Mr A
Bryant, Mr H B	Kilgour, Miss
Binstead, Capt	Lynn, Miss
Cooke, Major E	Meares, Mr A Brooke
Creagh, Mrs O'Moore	Meares, Miss
Cowan, Mr W D	MacAndrews's, Mrs, child and infant
Dubitt, Capt W M	Meredith, Mrs and child
Carpendall, Mrs P M	Money, Mrs and child
Collins, Mr and Mrs J H	Mathew, Mr C J
Crosley, Miss H M	Oxley, Miss E L
Cooke, Miss C H	Ormerod, Mr and Mrs
Clement-, Mr C H	Pirie, Capt, Mrs, child & infant
Chudleigh, Miss Kate	Philips, Miss
Clarke, Mrs and Miss	Phillips, Dr and Mrs
Clarke, Mr W E T	Rivas, Mrs
Dick, Miss	Rae, Miss
Doyc, Mr R M	Sailstone, Mr W
Doshi, Mr M	Sharp, Mr
Doshi, Mr J M	Scott, Mr W C
Davey, Mr H S	Stewart, Mr W N
Deane, Mr R S	Sinclair, Mr J
House, Mr L R	Tanner, Miss
Elsinger, Mr and Mrs	Verschoyle, Mrs
Fellowes, Mr H A	Wynch, Mr J J H, child and two infants
Forbes, Miss	Western, Major J S E
Goddard, Mr J W	Wood, Capt A E
Greenfield, Miss K	Wimberley, Mrs and two infts
Greyfell, Miss	
Hamilton, Mr E L	

MILITARY NEWS.

ONE Company of the 25th Bombay Rifles, which arrived here yesterday, will proceed to Thana, to day to relieve the detachment of the 21st Bombay Infantry which is at present there.

THE 25th Bombay Rifles, having arrived from Quetta District in course of relief is taken on the strength of Bombay Garrison :—4 British officers 14 native officers, 2 hospital assistants, 653 non-commissioned officers and men, 37 public followers, and 34 private followers.

MAJOR-GENERAL G. C. BIRD officiates in Command of the Punjab Frontier Force, vice Palmer.

Captain W. Prior, 13th Bengal Infanty, to be District Recruiting Officer, Lucknow.

7th Bengal Infantry.—Second-Lieutenant R. Garratt, to be Officiating Wing Officer.

30th Sikhs.—Lieutenant-Colonel Des Voeux to be Commandant vice Haughton.

1st Madras Pioneers.—Lieutenant G. D. Bruce to be Wing Officer.

21st Madras Pioneers.—Lieutenant G. A. McWatters to be Wing Officers.

27th Bombay Infantry.—Lieutenant P. H. Dyke to be Wing Officer.

Captain J. F. M. Birch, R. A. has qualified for promotion to the rank of Major.

Colonel H. P. Leach officiates as D. Q. M. G., India, vice Hamilton.

Major G. J. Younghusband officiates as Assistant Q. M. G. temporarily, vice Ridgeway.

Captain A. G. Medley, 19th Bengal Lancers officiates as D. A. A. G., District Staff, Punjab, vice Younghusband.

Captain Carnegy Officiates as D. A. A. G., Bombay Command.

Captain H. E. Ferguson is re-appointed Station Staff Officer, Naini Tal.

13th Bengal Lancers—Second Lieutenant J. H. Watson to be Officiating Squadron Officer.

15th Sikhs—Lieutenant-Colonel Hadow to be Commandant, vice Abbott.

29th Punjab Infantry.—Second-Lieutenant W. G. Hutchinson to be Officiating Wing Officer.

2nd Madras Infantry—Lieutenant H. R. Hopwood to be Wing Officer.

5th Madras Infantry.—Lieutenant W. H. Lane to be Wing Officer.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

REPRESENTATION BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

THE Chamber of Commerce, has addressed the following letter on the currency question to the Secretary to Government, Financial Department :—

SIR,—I have the honour, by direction of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, to wait upon you, for the favour of submission to the Government of India, with the view they entertain respecting the present unsatisfactory position of the currency and the desirability of adequate consideration being devoted to the subject with the view to ascertaining the best measures to be taken to amend the existing critical state of financial pressure throughout the country. With the export season only just commencing, those engaged in trade find themselves for a second year face to face with a bank rate of 12 to 13 per cent. per annum and accommodation almost unobtainable on any terms. The severe strain thereby entailed on the trade of the country of necessity exercises a most adverse influence, and is practically equivalent to a heavy indirect tax upon a large portion of the produce and manufactures of India. Some portion of this extreme pressure doubtless arises from the recent famine and its disastrous effects, and also in part to the heavy withdrawals of funds necessary for the frontier war ; but the main influence operating to produce the existing position is unquestionably the contraction of the currency consequent on the closing of the mints in June 1893. That being so, there seems little, if any, hope of material improvement in the financial situation even after the better crops which we have to anticipate have been marketed ; and the Committee of the Chamber therefore consider that the time has fully arrived when Government should, with the aid of the best experts opinion available, decide upon the measures which are necessary to put the monetary system of the country on a sound basis.

2. The Chamber is aware that the Government of India in its despatch of 16th September to the Secretary of State re-affirmed its adherence to the policy of a gold standard, and expressed its belief that they would in the near future succeed in establishing a stable exchange at 1s. 4d. per rupee by continuing the policy initiated in 1893 ; and further that, though the measure to be taken when the transition period was over had not been laid down, it was probable that the Indian Mints would be opened to gold, and gold coins would be made legal tender to an unlimited amount, silver rupees continuing also to be unlimited tender to an unlimited amount, the ratio between the rupee and the gold coins on tender being also then to be finally settled. There was no mention made in that despatch of any intention to guarantee the convertibility of the rupee into gold, but while it was admitted that the present system was in fact no system at all, the temporary continuation of it was defended as accelerating the moment towards such a gold standard as that which now exists in France and the United States.

3. So far as the Chamber is aware, no further definite intimation of the intentions of Government has been made except in the speech of the Finance Minister on the 14th January, in the course of which he intimated that the steps to be taken for the establishment of a gold standard were under consideration.

4. In view of the despatch of the 16th September and in the absence of any definite information as to the present intentions of Government, my Committee desire to record their opinion that the attempt to accumulate gold under the present system will, they believe, prove futile ; and even if it should succeed in any sort at all, it will only do so at the expense of the very greatest injury to trade, inasmuch as that system depends for its success on an artificial restriction of the currency, and that the maintenance of the value of the rupee at or near the level of 1s. 4d. can only be possible so long as the strain on the money market is maintained.

5. The Chamber repectfully submits that in the absence of a gold currency the establishment of a gold standard for this country is only possible by means of an absolute and permanent guarantee on the part of Government of the exchangeability of rupees for gold at a fixed value. This was recognized by two at least of the eminent Financiers who sat on the Herschell Committee (Lords Farrer and Welby) as being the logical conclusion of the policy initiated in 1893, and the experience gained since the Mints were closed affords, in the opinion of the Chamber, convincing evidence that nothing short of this will ensure the stability of exchange.

6. The Committee of the Chamber are deeply impressed with a sense of the gravity of such a step, but they are convinced that the time has come when Government must, in the interests, if not even for the preservation, of the trade of the country, either complete or reconsider the policy instituted in 1893. They respectfully submit that it is absolutely incumbent on Government to put the monetary system of this country on a sound basis, and that the only two possible alternatives are either (1) the adoption of a gold standard based upon the convertibility of the rupee into gold, or (2) a return to the old silver standard.

7. The Committee fully recognize the advantages to this country of an effective gold standard as encouraging a free flow of capital from Europe for the development of the resources of India and as relieving the financial difficulties of Government. But the whole question involving, as it does, the prosperity of the agricultural population of this country, on which our commerce and the financial stability of Government alike depend, is so complex that the Committee refrain from expressing an opinion as to which of the two alternatives should be chosen. This position they assume not from any desire to avoid responsibility in the matter, but from a conviction that the subject is too wide and many sided to be fully or satisfactory dealt with by them. Without therefore expressing an opinion as to the wisdom of the conclusion arrived at by Government that the establishment of a gold standard is to the interest of this country, the Committee of the Chamber think that it is a matter for very serious consideration whether the maintenance of a gold standard is practically possible.

8. The Chamber strongly deprecates any further merely experimental or transitional expedients and especially any further measures for the contraction of the currency, and considers it of the greatest importance that the next step taken by Government should be final and only adopted after the fullest and widest possible enquiry. The Chamber infers from the public deliverances of responsible authorities that some further measures are under discussion, but believing, as it does, that any false move now taken in the direction of a gold standard might have the most disastrous results, it earnestly protests against a decision on a matter of such vital importance to the commerce of this country being arrived at and adopted as the result of a discussion held practically in camera. Under these circumstances, much as the Chamber deplores the continuance of the present system any longer than is absolutely necessary to enable a right conclusion to be arrived at as to the next and final step, still having regard to the immense importance of the issues at stake, the Committee would recommend that the whole question of the Indian currency and finance should be made the subject of another full and exhaustive enquiry of the same nature as that which was instituted before the Mints were closed.

9. The report of the Herschell Committee and the evidence collected by them were, the Chamber considers, of immense value, and since that report was made many doubtful points have been cleared up and much new experience has been gained. My Committee accordingly think that the best chance of arriving at a correct solution of the immensely difficult problem lies in the appointment of a Committee of experienced Financiers similar to that which sat in 1893, and this measure, therefore, they respectfully but strenuously advocate.

10. The Chamber trusts that the scope of the reference to such a Committee will be as wide as possible, that Government will not exclude from that reference the possibility of a return to the silver standard, provided that, with due regard to the financial responsibilities of Government, that course may commend itself to the Committee. Fully recognising that the silver standard having been once abandoned, a return to it is beset by many difficulties, the Chamber still thinks that no enquiry would be complete or satisfactory which excluded even the consideration of it.—I have, etc.,

JOHN MARSHALL, Secretary.
R. H. MACAULAY, Chairman.

THE report of Dr. Bourne, F.R.S., on the sugar-cane disease in Godavery, which we publish in another column, contains matter for much alarm to the sugar-growers of the Northern Circars. "A most insidious foe" Dr. Bourne calls the fungus which is causing the mischief, and it is evident from all that he says that the most vigorous campaign against the foe is urgently necessary. The remedial measures he proposes are, it will be seen, drastic. Meanwhile, Dr. Bourne remarks, "it is evident that some of the methods adopted by the ryot are calculated to spread the spores as widely as possible, and his method of planting and more especially of raising a second crop where the disease is prevalent are almost certain to ensure its recrudescence in an aggravated form." Government has, we understand, urged Collectors to do all they can to induce the ryots to carry out Dr. Bourne's suggestions.

BRITISH diplomatists and many others of all nationalities who have come into contact with Sir Francis Clare Ford, our Ambassador at Rome, will hear with regret (writes "Marmaduke" in "Truth") that he has been and is still seriously unwell. It is, moreover, feared that he may be compelled to retire from the service before his term of office expires, which, according to the superannuation regulations, will be towards the end of the present year. Sir Francis has been an especially popular diplomatist throughout his long career, and at every post at which he has served his name is remembered by a host of friends.

SPORT IN ENGLAND.

LONDON, FEB. 18.

A FASHIONABLE company, with the Prince of Wales most conspicuous of all in the most luxurious private box of the house, filled the galleries and balconies of the National Skating Palace on Tuesday afternoon and evening. The public will probably better recognise the place under its old name of Hengler's Circus, though its interior, for rinking purposes, has been wonderfully transformed, and made beautiful by plants, flowers, and sumptuous upholstery, all set off by the important centre circle of white, hard, smooth ice. The occasion of the Royal visit was the competition for the world's championship in figure skating under the auspices of the International Skating Union. In the skating world this is really an event of high importance. It settles the pre-eminence of one man over all his fellows for the space of one year ; it means also to this fortunate gentleman the ceremonious presentation of a handsome silver trophy at the annual banquet. In one other respect the competition was unique, for it is the first occasion of its being held in this country. This has happened under exceptionally favourable circumstances, because the mild winter has been a veritable fraud to the skaters of the European capitals. Skating competitions in Stockholm, Vienna, or Munich without natural ice would be certainly a dismal business, and the foreign gentlemen could not therefore have shown their prowess in London under more happy conditions. Figure and, if the term may be permitted, "fancy" skating has become one of the recognised aristocratic pastimes of the London season on the rinks maintained in the metropolis, and the fact that there are now present at Hengler's well-known champions from Sweden, Finland, and Germany naturally proved on Tuesday a potent attraction. Our English skaters pride themselves upon a certain academic style, which differs, amongst other details, in being less showy, from the continental.

The champion for 1897, Herr Hugel, of the Vienna Skating Club, Mr. G. Holt, of the National Skating Association, Mr. G. Fuchs, of the Munich Skating Club, and Herr Grenander, of the Stockholm Skating Club, were the competitors ; the referee was Major Balck, of Stockholm, President of the Union, and the judges were—Messrs

the superb three-year-old filly Sea Breeze, which Mr Hooley and Sir J. Blundell Maple between them brought up to the unprecedented figure of 1,150 guineas, at which she was acquired by Sir Blundell Maple. The total of the sales also reached a record figure, and the entire proceedings afforded a striking testimony to the marked advance the breeding of shire horses has made in general estimation.

Golfers throughout London, whose numbers certainly may now be reckoned by thousands, will learn with regret that the headquarters of the North Surrey Club have been totally destroyed by fire. Not many months have elapsed since the club entered into possession of their charmingly situated course at Norbury. Throughout the winter the task of adapting the resources of the old house known as the Hermitage to the requirements of a golf club had been in process of accomplishment, and the work was approaching completion. The quaint old structure in which Jenny Hill, "the Vital Spark," last lived was thoroughly renovated, and hard by it an iron structure of considerable dimensions was in course of construction, in which were placed the lockers containing the clubs and other personal belongings of the members. It was in this building that the fire originated. Almost before the alarm could be raised the flames spread from locker to locker, and in a few minutes the interior of the iron building was a fiery furnace. So rapid was the spread of the flames that the attendance could not venture upon the work of rescue, and wooden and iron lubs, running probably in total into many hundreds, were destroyed. Half an hour after the flames spread to the Hermitage itself, and it became evident that the whole block of buildings was doomed. From the stewards' department cases of spirits and crates of beer were carried in haste, whilst from the dressing rooms dozens of pairs of heavily nailed boots were cast out of the window on to the lawn. Red coats with the North Surrey dressings lay piled up in heaps hard by, and near were a few articles of removable furniture which could be got out. Fire engines were summoned from Thornton Heath, from Croydon, Streatham, and surrounding stations, but they could do little or nothing for the wooden structure—dry as it was with age and reeking with new paint. In a couple of hours only parts of the four outer walls were standing, whilst charred and smouldering limbs of trees north and south of the spot spoke to the power with which the fire had burned. The damage is put at some thousands of pounds.

A 36-holes match took place on the links of the Royal Wimbledon Club, the other day, between J. H. Taylor, the home professional, and J. Braid, of Romford. Both men gave a splendid exposition of golf in the morning round of 13 holes; but neither played up to form in the second round. The first hole was halved in a perfect 3. Thanks to a splendid put of 15 yards, Braid took the 2nd hole. Taylor pocketed the next, and three halves followed. At the 7th Braid got down a ten yards put and again took the lead. At the next hole Taylor drew level, and at the turn he took the lead for the first time. Braid's approach to the 10th hole was much too strong; but, thanks to a long put, he halved. At the 11th, Taylor brought off a remarkably fine put, and won in three to four. Play after this was of a give-and-take nature, and the round finished with the players all square. In the second round, there were very few really brilliant strokes. Both men were weak on the greens. Taylor was seen to the most advantage in the long game; and to this he owes his victory by three holes up and two to play. The bye was halved, each man winning a hole. The scores were: Taylor, First Round—out: 3, 5, 4, 5, 3, 4, 5, 5, 4, 4, equals 37; home: 3, 3, 4, 5, 5, 3, 4, 4, 5, equals 36; total, 73. Second Round—out: 3, 5, 4, 6, 4, 5, 5, 5, 4, equals 41; home: 4, 4, 4, 4, 5, 4, 4, 3, 4, equals 36; total 77. Total for two rounds, 150. Braid, First Round—out: 3, 4, 5, 5, 3, 4, 4, 5, 5, equals 38; home: 3, 4, 3, 4, 4, 4, 5, 4, 3, equals 34; total, 72. Second Round—out: 4, 7, 5, 5, 4, 6, 4, 5, 4, equals 44; home: 3, 5, 4, 5, 5, 3, 5, 5, 3, equals 38; total, 82. Total for two rounds, 154. Mr. F. H. Newnes (a son of Sir George Newnes, who presented the purse of money for which the match was played) officiated as umpire in the first round; and Dr. W. Laidlaw Purves in the second.

Although such famous clubs as Aston Villa, Sheffield United, Blackburn Rovers, Sunderland, and Preston North End have already been ousted from the Associations Challenge Cup competition, the interest in the various matches has not suffered in the least as far as the general public are concerned. In fact the results of the first round ties have made it exceedingly difficult to forecast the ultimate result of the competition. The sixteen clubs taking part in the ties to-day include nine from the First Division of the Football League, five from the Second Division of the same organization, one from the Midland League (Burslem Port Vale), and one from the Southern League (Southampton). The proportion of clubs from the First Division of the League is unusually small. Last year thirteen of the successful sixteen came from that body, against nine this season. Ten clubs that are playing in the second round to-day took part in the same stage of the competition last season—Derby County, Stoke, Everton, Southampton, Newton Heath, Notts Forest, Wolverhampton Wanderers, West Broomwich Albion, Liverpool, and Bolton Wanderers. The absentees compared with 1896-97 include Aston Villa, Bury, Sunderland, Preston North End, Notts County, and Blackburn Rovers, who give place to Sheffield Wednesday, Burslem Port Vale, Gainsborough Trinity, Newcastle United, Manchester City, and Burnley.

Notts Forest had a very easy task in the first round, and they have had another slice of luck in the second, for Gainsborough Trinity are not likely to do much against the Foresters at Nottingham. The hopes of the South are centered in Southampton, whose luck in getting choice of ground for their ties is almost phenomenal. Newcastle United will be the visitors at Southampton to-day, and no doubt a vast crowd will gather at the County Ground at Southampton to witness the match. In the previous round Newcastle had the pleasure of defeating Preston North End at Preston, and on this form they should be good enough to beat Southampton. However, the latter may be depended on to make a good fight on their own ground, and the Newcastle men will have to be at their best to pull through. Burslem Port Vale, who covered themselves with glory in the first round by knocking out the leaders of the First Division of the League (Sheffield United), have now to face Turnley, the leaders in the Second Division. The match is at Burnley, and the home club will probably succeed where Sheffield United failed. If Port Vale manage to win again, they will deserve to win the Cup. Bolton Wanderers have choice of ground against Manchester City, and should win, but Liverpool's task in meeting Newton Heath on the Newton Heath ground is by no means an easy one. Last year Newton Heath ran into the third round, and then made a capital fight with Derby County at Derby.

Under Rugby Union rules, matches were won on Saturday by Blackheath against Cambridge University, London Scottish against Richmond, Rosslyn Park against the Harlequins, Oxford University against Croydon, Newport against Wellington, Llanelly against Gloucester, Swansea against Aberavon, Neath against Cardiff, and Bristol against Penarth. A match in the county championship was won by Northumberland against Cumberland. Under Rugby Union rules a match in the county championship competition was played on Wednesday between Northumberland and Cheshire, and won by Northumberland, which thus secured the championship of the North and will have to play the Midland counties for the actual champion ship.

At last the way seems open for a solution of the International difficulties with Wales, which have troubled the Rugby Union for the last few months. It was generally believed that the difficulties would be settled at the meeting of the International Board at Richmond, but the Welsh delegates raised a quibble by not agreeing to the publication of the decisions of the Board, although they were at the same time prepared to recognize the by-laws of the Board and to give a guarantee that A. J. Gould should not play in international matches. The decisions were, of course, published with the news that the Welsh delegates would not agree to their publication. However, the Committee of the Welsh Union have made haste to disown the action of their representatives. So it is quite possible that the other three countries may after all meet Wales before the end of the season. England will have to give up the second North v. South match, fixed for Feb. 26, at Richmond, if Wales is to be met, and although the sides have been already selected, there is every reason to believe that the fixture will be cancelled to oblige Wales.

If Cornell should send a crew to Henley this year it may have a novel feature in the form of a Chinese coxswain. This is Mr. S. Alfred Sze, a Chinese student of the university, who at home is Sas-Ke-Sze, and who is said to be the best coxswain in the university. His selection would not be quite unprecedented, for early in the eighties Mum-Eyew-Chung steered the Yale crew, and was said to be the finest cox the boat had ever had.

TACTICAL RIFLE MEETING AT SANTA CRUZ.

The Tactical meeting duly came off on the Santa Cruz Rifle Ranges, yesterday morning. There were 18 entries in all for each match, made up as follows:—Six from the B. V. Rifles, four from the G. I. P. Ry., four from the B. B. and C. I. Ry., two from the B. V. Artillery, and two from the Light Horse. There was some delay in commencing, owing to the special train being late, but Captain Moss, who was the superintending officer, lost no time in getting the different teams settled down as soon as they arrived. The weather was all that could be desired, and the shooting on the whole was very fair as will be seen from the scores noted below:—

Match I.—"Volley Firing." Open to teams of six. Distance 500 yards. 5 Volleys. Highest possible 30.

1st B B and C I Ry, D Co, Commanded by Sergt Conyers	23
2nd G I P Ry, A Co, Col Sergt Knight	22
3rd G I P Ry, N Co, Sergt Fry	21
4th B V R, B Co, Sergt Nisbet	20
5th G I P Ry, N Co, Sergt Faulkner	18

The prizes for "Drill and Form" fell to K Company team, G. I. P. Ry. (Sergt. Patterson), and D Company team, B. B. and C. I. Ry. (Sergt Conyers).

Match II.—"Running Practice." Between 500 and 200 yards. Open to teams of six. Seven rounds. Highest possible 42.

1st B V Rifles, D Co, Serg. McKinnon	35
2nd B B and C I Ry, D Co, Sergt Conyers	35
3rd G I P Ry, N Co, Serg. Fry	32
4th G I P Ry, A Co, Col-Sergt Knight	31
5th B B & C I Ry, A Co, Sergt D'Mellow	31
6th G I P Ry, K Co, Sergt Patterson	28

The scoring in this match was very close, and the Bombay Volunteer Rifles and the B. B and C. I. Ry. Corps divided the honours—the G. I. P. Ry. following close.

Match III.—"Rifles." Open to teams of three. Distance between 500 and 200. Seven shots.

1st B V A, Sergt Rhenius' team	56
2nd B B and C I Ry, Lt Owen's team	53
3rd Bo L H, Lt Symons' team	52
4th B B & C I Ry, Corpl Thomson's team	51

The Bombay Light Horse team was leading for some time with 52, then 53 was scored by a team of the B. B. & C. I. Railway, which was thought hard to beat. But the last team of the Bombay Volunteer Artillery shot very well, and pulled off the first prize with 56.

Match IV.—"Field Firing." Open to teams of six. Distances unknown. Targets, Heads and Shoulders.

	No. of hits
1st B B & C I Ry, A Co (No 2)	10
2nd do D Co	7
3rd do H Co	7
4th B V Rifles, B Co	6
5th B B & C I Ry, A Co (No 1)	6
6th G I P Ry, N Co	6
7th B V A, No 1	5

This was the most interesting match fired; the distances having to be judged by the Section Commanders. The B. B. & C. I. Railway carried everything before them here, probably because they know the ground better than the other teams.

Match V.—"Revolver." This fell to Captain C Moss, Adjutant, Bo Vol. Rifles, while Lieutenant G. H. Webb, G. I. P. Railway, and Lieutenant A. J. Pitts, Bo. Vol. Artillery, took 2nd and 3rd places, respectively.

This completed the series of matches which the Committee had arranged for, and brought the meeting to a close. The Bombay Light Horse, who are in camp close by, hospitably entertained the officers of the different corps at breakfast. There was little or no wind, and there is no doubt that the best teams won. The conditions of the different matches were well calculated to promote good team shooting and fire discipline, which is what the Committee aimed at. Captain Cuffe, who was the president of the Tactical meeting, is to be congratulated on the success of the morning's work.

INTER-REGIMENTAL POLO TOURNAMENT.

THE FINAL.

At Meerut the final tie in the Inter-regimental Polo Tournament was played off on Friday afternoon under perfect conditions. The arrangements for spectators have been excellent throughout the tournament and the 5th Dragoon Guards have been "At Home" each evening.

The game was between the 4th Dragoon Guards and the Durham Light Infantry. The teams were as follows: 4th Dragoon Guards: Mr. C R. Grant, 1; Mr. F. Holden, 2; Mr. B. H. H. Mathew-Lannowe, 3; Mr. J. H. Lloyd, back. Durham Light Infantry—Mr. L. F. Ashburner, 1; Mr. H. B. des V. Wilkinson, 2; Captain H. De. B. D Lisle, 3; Captain C. C Luard, back. Umpires—Colonel Rochfort and Captain McLaren. The expectations formed of this game were fully realised: it was a splendid display, and public interest was sustained from first to last. In the first chukker the Dragoons did not make a strong stand, and were almost all through on the defensive, but after this they warmed up and played very well. Mr. Mathew-Lannowe, and Mr. Lloyd showed out brilliantly and had the forwards not missed some of their serves they might have had a bigger score. The Durhams, it goes without saying, gave a perfect demonstration of polo, though towards the end their hitting was faulty, and more than one shot went wide of the flags. They were often put on the defensive, though it was never doubted they would ultimately wear down their opponents and win, and the latter's ponies certainly began to fail at the end.

After the game Sir Baker Russell in a shot speech complimented Captain D'Lisle and his team on having won the cup three times in succession, and expressed regret that the Durhams were leaving India, a sentiment which he felt sure would be echoed through the ranks of the civil and military services in India (hear hear), a Captain DeLisle made a suitable reply.

DETAILS OF THE GAME.

In the first chukker, Wilkinson got a run with the ball, but it went wide and being brought to mid-ground was worked back to the flags and a goal hit. Play was now in the Dragoons's half till the Durhams hit a subsidiary. From the hit out the ball was soon stopped, and another subsidiary was scored, the Dragoons' defence being feeble.

In the second chukker play continued in the Dragoons' half, till after a wide shot by Wilkinson the Durhams ran the ball from mid-ground and hit a goal. Play continued in the Dragoons' half for some time and then near the goal line the Dragoons had a run across and after a brief check carried on and hit a subsidiary. From mid-ground the Dragoons shortly had a long shot at the flags but the ball went wide. The score was now Durhams two goals two subsidiaries, one subsidiary.

In the third chukker, from the hit out, Mr. Mathew-Lannowe got on the ball in mid-ground and by a long shot hit a goal. Fast and exciting play followed, until the ball was hit out behind the Durhams goal line by Captain DeLisle, for which the Dragoons got a corner. The Durhams, however, got away and after a run to the Dragoons end the ball went wide, and more than one shot at the flags was unsuccessful.

In the fourth chukker play was in the Dragoons' end, where despite a stout resistance the Durhams soon hit a goal. From the hit off the Durhams carried the ball to their own end, the Dragoons trying to drive it back, and the mistake was not discovered till the ball went out behind the Durhams goal line. The Durhams hit out the ball and worked to the Dragoons' end where the final hit went wide. This left the score at the end of the chukker Durhams, three goals two subsidiaries; Dragoons, one goal one subsidiary.

In the fifth chukker out of a *melee* in front of the flags the Dragoons got away and Mr Mathew-Lannowe made an excellent run, but the ball went out at the side in mid ground. When in play again the Dragoons ran the ball to the Durhams' flags, where Mr. Grant hit a goal. Splendid play followed, the attack and defence on both sides being equally good, and the Dragoons often had the ball confined to the Durhams' end, till at last they hit a subsidiary.

In the sixth chukker the Dragoons again carried the ball to the Durhams' half for a space till Captain De Lisle got a run and hit a subsidiary by a long shot. Some exciting play followed in mid-ground, where Mr. Holden swung out of his saddle. Shortly afterwards the Dragoons got "off side" against the Durham who had hit out, and running the ball to the other side of the ground hit a subsidiary.

In the seventh chukker play was in the Dragoon's half till the Durhams scored a subsidiary, and shortly after they had another unsuccessful shot at the flags.

In the eighth chukker a sustained attack was made on the Dragoons flags, and then the Ball was hit out and afterwards again returned, but the shots went very wide until at last a subsidiary was scored. Shortly, out of a *melee* a good was hit and the Durhams won by four goals and six subsidiaries to two goals and two subsidiaries.

THE PLAGUE RULES AS TO DEATH REGISTRATION.

OBJECTIONS OF NATIVE COMMUNITIES.

ANOTHER DEPUTATION TO LORD SANDHURST.

Although great care has been taken to explain to many of the leaders of Native thought the object of the new rules regarding the registration of plague deaths before putting them fully into force, and although they have only been carried out to a limited extent, there can be no doubt that the feeling against the rules has strengthened instead of diminished during the last two or three weeks. This feeling found expression in a largely attended meeting of Mahomedans of all classes, held at the bungalow of his Highness Aga Khan, on Sunday, and participated in by several Mahomedan leaders, who have throughout the plague epidemic given Government an unswerving support, and done their utmost to make their ill-instructed co-religionists take kindly to the severe measures of repression that have so long held the field. The following are the names of the members of the Committee appointed to prepare a memorial to be forwarded to his Excellency the Governor:—Sirdar Cassum Haji Mitha, Khan Bahadur; Sirdar Haji Umar Jamal, Khan Bahadur; Haji Sulleman Abdul Wahed; Haji Jackeria Haji Ahmed Patel; Sirdar Abdulali Akbarali, Khan Bahadur; Messrs. Mir Aun Ali, barrister-at-law; Kazi Kabirudin, barrister-at-law; Budrudin Abdulla Kur; Khan Bahadur Dawoodbhoy Moosabhoy; Messrs. Haji Cassum Jeosub, Haji Janmahomed Latiff, Haji Ebrahim Haji Mahomed Sulleman, Haji Moosa Haji Sulleman Patel, Hussein Mea Rahimtulla, Abdulla Mea Khundwani, Mea Mahomed Haji Janmahomed Chotari, Haji Ebrahim Haji Soomar Patel, Haji Ahmed Patel, Haji Osman Haji Joosub Noorani, Haji Ahmed Haji Abdulla Noorani, Haji Sabao Sidick, Haji Ismail Allana, Haji Abdool Satar Haji Oomar Sayab, Haji Jackeria Moledina, Dr. Khaja Abdulla, Dr. Syed Kutbudin, Makoonda Magrul (Siddi King), Kazi Mahomed Saleh Londe, Moonshi Mahomed Ismail, Haji Budrudin Jitekar, Moulvi Mahomed Yusuf Khatkhatre, and others. It will be seen, therefore, that the petition that is to be presented to H. E. the Governor-in-Council on behalf of the Mahomedans is to be prepared by men some of whom have had their services in connection with the plague acknowledged in a very direct way by Government. The opposition to the rules is indeed general, and cannot be regarded as coming from the section which proved so irreconcilable about twelve months ago in regard to the segregation arrangements introduced by the Gatacre Committee. The additional rules promulgated in the *Government Gazette* on January 13th last, but hitherto only partially enforced, were four in number, and provided:—

(1) The Plague Committee may appoint special officers either by name or by virtue of office to carry out or perform under the general direction of the Committee any measures of acts devised or ordered by them to be taken for the suppression or prevention of the spread of plague. Such special officers may be known as "Plague Authorities" and their powers and duties may be limited as directed by the Committee and their appointment shall be subject to revocation at any time by the Committee.

(2) In the event of any death which may have been the cause thereof occurring in any house or any building, shed, stable or other place used as human dwelling (not being a hospital) it shall be incumbent on the principal adult surviving member of the family to which the deceased belonged, or on any adult person who was present or attended on the deceased at the time of death to give immediate and full information of the death and place where it occurred and of the name and residence of the nearest District Medical Officer or Subdivisional Medical Officer, or Plague Authority specially appointed for this purpose.

(3) On receipt of the said information the District Medical Officer or Sub-divisional Medical Officer or Plague Authority aforesaid, as the case may be, shall immediately register the death and either himself go or send a reliable subordinate to the place indicated in order to verify the information given; and thereafter may give the informant a certificate that the death has been registered, which certificate shall when duly demanded be produced by the person or persons who shall carry, or accompany, the corpse to the place of cremation or burial or to a tower of silence.

(4) Any District Medical Officer or Sub-divisional Medical Officer or Plague Authority aforesaid is empowered to demand production of such a certificate from the persons carrying or accompanying a corpse, as aforesaid; and, in the event of such a certificate being not produced, empowered to detain or cause to be detained any one of the funeral party at the place of cremation or burial or tower of silence until the name and caste of the deceased and the place where the death occurred have been clearly ascertained.

It is contended by the Mahomedans that the enforcement of these rules would be inimical to the due observance of the law regarding deceased persons laid down by the Prophet. Even a husband is not allowed to look upon the face of his wife after her decease, and much less should a stranger, probably a non-Moslem, do so. Defilement is caused by touching a dead person. For these reasons the proposed *post mortem* examination is strongly resented by the Moslems, and on similar grounds great objections are raised by Parsees, Bunniahs, and Bhatias. The Parsees, as is well-known, refuse to admit within their houses persons of other communities, pending the removal of a deceased inmate to the Towers of Silence, and it is said that if the rules are enforced, the Parsees examined after their decease by plague officers, instead of being consigned to the ordinary towers, will be deposited in the smaller tower where suicides are taken. In addition to the complaints being made regarding the proposed introduction of these rules, the people are raising objections to the employment of European soldiers in the work of house-to-house inspection, and are urging that the original understanding that these soldiers should only act as guards, and should not enter the premises should be adhered to. It is noteworthy that, while the people raise this objection to the soldiers, the presence of European constables or officers of the police force has a very reassuring effect, and leads to a ready assent to the inspection, though not to an abandonment of the devices resorted to in order to conceal cases. It is understood that the proposal to close the piece-goods market arises from the belief that this action will be the best means open to the dealers to bring their alleged grievances in regard to the plague rules to the notices of the authorities, both here and in England, where they believe exporters will be sufficiently concerned to raise an agitation on the subject. There can be little doubt that were it not for the quarantine imposed in different places the existing unrest would lead to a considerable exodus of people. But owing to these detentions no exodus is taking place, and the number of work-people is almost, if not quite, equal to the demand. The mills have nearly a full complement of hands, but it is noteworthy that the 1,200 people thrown out of employment by the fire last week at the Mazagon Mill have been readily taken in other mills.

Other meetings of protest besides that of the Mahomedans have been held. Mr. Alija Umersey took the chair at a meeting of the Cutchi and Halai, Bhattia Mahajans, held at the Mahajan Wadi, on Sunday evening. About 150 Bhatias were present, Mr. Govindji Thakersey Mulji reported to the meeting the result of a visit paid to H. E. Lord Sandhurst in regard to the proposed new rules. He stated that at a meeting of Hindu leaders held at the Laxmi Narain Temple there was a consensus of opinion that the proposed new rules would contravene both caste customs and Hindu religions sentiment. The Hon. Dr. Bhalchandra Krishna and Mr. Ghelabhai Haridas expressed the same views. After several speeches had been made the meeting unanimously agreed to request Mr. Govindji to explain to the Governor the reasons for objections to the regulations.

A public meeting of the Dawoodi Borah Mahomedan community was called on the 6th instant, to consider the question of the death certificate, and a committee of leading members was appointed to consult and work conjointly with other Mahomedan communities. A further meeting of the committee was convened yesterday, in which the resolution passed at the general meeting of the Mahomedan community, held at Mozafarabad, on Sunday, was approved and confirmed.

In view of the opposition with which the proposed rules have been met, H. E. Lord Sandhurst intends to receive deputations of the various communities on Wednesday next to discuss the position again with his Excellency. It is understood that the authorities are prepared to relax the stringency of the rule requiring a certificate as to the course of death, provided that the leaders of the different communities will undertake to report the numbers and localities of houses in which deaths occur. This will obviate the inconvenience to which the Plague authorities are put by the false statements made by the relatives of a deceased person as to his late place of residence when the body is taken for interment or cremation. Of course the object in view in requiring correct particulars is to ascertain as early as possible where deaths from plague have occurred with a view to adopting the measures of disinfection and segregation which forms so prominent a part of the policy of the Committee.

THE PRESENT DISCONTENT.

(BY A NATIVE CONTRIBUTOR.)

When so much is being done to arrest the plague, it is bad taste to criticise in a hostile spirit the action of Government who have strained every nerve to alleviate the distress and miseries of the people. But when, notwithstanding all the praiseworthy efforts of Government, their actions have been commented upon adversely, they must either be bad or misunderstood or disliked by the people. There is no doubt that the plague regulations have not been favourably received by the public, for reasons I will try to explain. The people are indifferent whether inoculation is made compulsory or not. They would take to it readily if it were substituted for other measures, which cause not only inconvenience, but a great deal of heart-burning and disappointment—heart-burning because they are utterly distasteful to the native mind, and disappointment because they have not proved themselves to be wholly efficacious but injurious. More than that, the agency through which they are sought to be carried out is not to the liking of the people. While I do not deny the necessity of inoculation, I am strongly opposed to its being made compulsory as long as other stringent rules are not relaxed. The growing public voice in favour of inoculation, and the fact that it has now passed the experimental stage, requires it that it should no longer be regarded with apathy. Even if it had not passed an experimental stage, it was but right to give it a fair trial since it inspires confidence among people, and it will not be denied that confidence goes a great way towards driving away an epidemic in the same ratio as panic accelerates its ravages. Though I would not pin my faith altogether to inoculation, I would certainly prefer it to the other hard measures which, in my humble opinion, instead of mending matters make them worse. They may be good measures, but they have not yet passed an "experimental stage," and, for aught we know, the results have not been proved to be all satisfactory by any official report or returns. I will attempt to describe the hardships of the other measures, and I have been able to glean them from personal conversation I have had with people who have had the misfortune to be subjected to them.

As regards the soldiers employed in search parties, the objections taken against them are not rational, but one must make allowance for the prejudices of the people. When Tommy Atkins goes into the Native town he is generally on the spree and merry under the influence of liquor. The people have, therefore, a natural fear of the soldier, and shut their doors on his approach in fear lest he should harm them. Hence the opposition to the employment of European soldiers. It requires only a native's mind to gauge the fear which seizes them on seeing a European soldier, who is wrongly abused because he is not understood. But where is the necessity of employing soldiers for house-to-house inspection which was done so thoroughly and so satisfactorily without them last year? I mean no slight to the present Plague Committee when I say that people remember with affection the name of General Gatacre, and pronounce with one voice that were he here at such a critical juncture they would have been spared much humiliation and hardship. I had the occasion to go round with search parties under General Gatacre, and I well remember how satisfied the people looked when they saw the genial General amidst them, giving sweets and cream to children in the streets and enquiring of the grievances of the people with a view to their redress. If certain respectable persons are made responsible for finding out cases in their respective localities, I think there will be no need of soldiers, and no cause of complaint. Why should not the Plague Committee do as was done last year and send out several search parties under responsible officers or medical men?

Nobody can deny the benefits of proper segregation. But the advantage of segregation, as it now exists, is open to question. It is with a heavy heart, in the first instance, that the people are made to leave their houses. In the segregation camp it is impossible to expect the usual home comforts. These so-called camps are mere huts, which do not give sufficient protection against the storm, the wind, and the mist. The pleasant company at home, which is essential to beguiling tedious hours, is not to be found in these camps, and the inmates are mixed with strange associates, strange surroundings, and subjected to all the vicissitudes of the weather. Accommodation in these camps is not all that could be desired, and want of space is generally felt. But what has made the people more miserable and down-cast is the quarantine rules. When the plague broke out in a virulent form at Poona and Surat, people came to Bombay to seek shelter. Quarantine ought to have been imposed on them then, but it was not done effectually until December last. My opinion is that the quarantine is a sham and a farce. It does not come in the way of those who have influence or an open purse. This is no less than a public scandal, but the hands of the authorities are so full that they can hardly find time to see what was going on behind the scene and what oppression is caused by underlings, who find a powerful handle in the hard rules promulgated by the Plague Committee. How the quarantine was imposed and how it was removed and how it is sought to be re-imposed are matters of common knowledge, and I need not dwell on it. The doors of the stable are closed after the steed is stolen. Then, on second thought, they are again opened after causing much heart-burning. If anything tends to make a man ill, it is the confinement in the camps for ten days. After ten weary days they are discharged none the better for the confinement. But this is not the evil that is weighing on the minds of the people. It is the ruin of their trade, their industry, and their prosperity that they are bemourning. Notwithstanding these hard quarantine rules, I know many instances of people travelling every now and then without the least annoyances or inconvenience. I also know many cases in which people have had very unpleasant experience of quarantine, and its after effects have told on their health. The quarantine rules are honoured frequently in the breach, and have worked most unsatisfactorily, to the ruin of trade and great hardship on all concerned. The cloth merchants and piece-goods merchants form a powerful factor in the trade of this city. They have found themselves on the horns of a dilemma, being unable to pay the hundies drawn by the supplying firms in England, who have been very considerate to their constituents. Some of them are in the verge of insolvency which stares them in the face. The merchants have been contemplating stopping orders of goods from England, with a view to raise an agitation at Home against the rules and enlist the sympathy of Englishmen on their behalf. They are labouring under the impression that unless the people at home take up their cause, the authorities will continue to bring into force hard rules standing in the way of business and religion. It may be that the complaints I have cited are unreasonable; but if his Excellency Lord Sandhurst who has shown so much courage and determinatton in everything that he has taken in hand, will be at pains to enquire into the truth or otherwise of them, he will be doing a great service to the people. The patience and perseverance which has characterised Lord Sandhurst's administration will, I am sure, enable him to steer the barque of state out of the stormy waters in which it now travels. If his Excellency takes the public into his confidence, and removes the difficulties of segregation and quarantine, he will make an inestimable addition to the claims he has on the gratitude of the people of the Presidency, whose welfare he has so genuinely at his heart.

Some Liberals are talking freely about the late Mr. Villiers and his pension, and questions are almost certain to be asked about the matter in the House of Commons. He was thought to be a poor man, but the legacy he had received, though he did not touch it, hardly bears out that view. On the supposition that he must have paid Income-tax on the interest accruing from the legacy, it is argued that successive Governments must have been well aware that he did not need the second-class pension he has been receiving for more than thirteen years.

THE ALBION MILK AND SULPHUR SOAP.—Pure, Mild, and Emollient.—This essentially complexion Soap is most agreeable and beneficial in use, especially where the skin is sensitive, or has become roughened by exposure on land or sea. It never irritates, and hence with its soothing and pleasantly purifying tendency is particularly valuable in ho climates. A luxury for the Toilet and the Bath Indispensable for Children, Creamy lathers, delicately perfumed. Sold by all Chemists and Stores.

THE CITY MORTALITY.

The Municipal Office returns for the twenty-four hours ending 6 a.m., yesterday, give the following results:—

Wards.		No. of Attacks.	No. of Deaths from Bubonic Plague.	Total Deaths from all Causes.
A	Upper Colaba	1	0	13
	Mid. & Lower Colaba	0	1	
	Fort, Southern	0	0	
	Fort, Northern	6	2	
	Esplanade	0	0	
B	Mandvie	2	1	29
	Chuckla	2	0	
	Umarkhady	4	1	
	Pergli	2	2	
C	Market	6	2	54
	Khoja Talao	10	8	
	Tamarindy	3	4	
	Khetwadi War	0	0	
	Khara Talao	2	1	
	Kumbarwada	10	4	
D	Kheraidy	10	0	22
	Girgaum	0	2	
	Chowpatty	3	0	
	Walkeshwar	4	0	
	Mahalaxmi	3	1	
E	Mazagon	4	5	50
	Tarwady	1	0	
	Second Nagpada	0	0	
	Kamathipura	0	4	
	Tardeo	0	6	
	Byculla	12	5	
	First Nagpada	0	1	
F	Parel	1	1	12
	Sewree	0	0	
	Sion	0	0	
G	Mahim	5	1	6
	Worlee	2	2	
	Water Division	0	0	12
	Not Known	22	2	
	Hospitals.			
	Parsee		5	
	Jail		0	
	Grant Road		7	
	St. George's		0	
	Mahim Custom Rd		0	
	Byculla Camp		0	
	Jail, Parel		2	
	Hindu		6	
	Arthur Road		19	
	Pathara Prabhu		1	
	Dariasthan		4	
	Modykhana		14	
	Modh & Forward		1	
	Port Trust		2	117
	Mahomedbhoy E		1	
	Police		1	
	Madanpura		1	
	Marwadi Fatehpur		1	
	Kapol & Lad Joint		1	
	Bhatia		6	
	Nagdevi		1	
	Khatri		1	
	Brahma Khatri		1	
	Messrs. Greaves Cotton		1	
	Govt. House, Parel		13	
	Maratha		13	
	Mahomedan		4	
	Total	115	162	315
	Total plague deaths to date	24,136	19,633	
	Same date last year	104	81	193
	CHOLERA.			
	Attack		1	
	Death		1	

A PLAGUE CASE ON BOARD H. M. S. TENASSERIM.

Owing to the existence of plague in Bombay, Rear-Admiral Drummond, commanding the East Indian Squadron, has not resided here during the whole period of his command. Singularly enough, on the very day on which his Excelleney landed at Bombay for the first time subsequent to his taking over charge from Rear-Admiral Kennedy in March, 1895, a case of plague was discovered on board of H. M. S. Tenasserim, the hulk of the Harbour Defence Squadron. The victim, David Rose, the ship's carpenter, visited the Native town a day or two before he was taken ill, and it is believed that he then contracted the disease. He has been removed to the European General Hospital. The officers and men, not only of the hulk, but also of the Magdala and Abyssinia and the seven torpedo-boats have been placed in strict quarantine for ten days, this being necessary owing to the fact that the blue jackets in each of these vessels of the Defence Squadron have frequently to visit the Tenasserim in the course of their work. The men of H. M. S. Eclipse and Pigeon are allowed to go on shore, but are required to be back on board before 7 o'clock in the evening.

ANOTHER ATTACK ON A SEARCH PARTY.

Yesterday afternoon, about 3 o'clock, a search party, consisting of six men of the Royal Artillery, an officer of the Poona Punitive Police Force, a Mahomedan doctor, and a lady doctor, was carrying on a house-to-house visitation at Cavet gully, a locality inhabited by Sidees and Mahomedans. A large crowd of Sidees and Mahomedans collected in the street and pelted the party with stones. The Poona Punitive Police officer sustained three bruises on his left arm, and some soldiers were slightly injured. The officers of the city police appeared on the scene and the crowd was dispersed. Three Sidees and one Hindu, who were alleged to have taken part in pelting the party, were arrested and taken to the Pydhownie police station. They were subsequently bailed out to appear before the Presidency Magistrate, to-day.

THE INFLUX INTO BANDORA.

The following resolution was passed unanimously at the last meeting of the Bandora Board:—"That the members of the Bandora Municipality respectfully call the attention of the Collector to the fact that numbers of Bombay people are flocking into Bandora, and they, to protect their district from infection, request him to empower them to reimpose the former plague rules; the chief of which was that no person, or persons, coming from an infected quarter was allowed to permanently reside in Bandora. The members of the Board view with the greatest concern the influx into their town, and should it continue, they feel it is hopeless to keep Bandora free from plague; and if they cannot enforce rules for their own protection, they must respectfully point out that they will not undertake to be responsible for the health of those under their care."

MEDICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS.

These reports showed that in the Colaba District a case of plague was detected at No. 76, Colaba Road, and removed to a hospital. A suspicious case of fever was also found at No. 5, Grant Buildings, and removed to a hospital. In the Fort District seven cases occurred, as under:—Two in Karwar Street, two in Mint Road Cross Lane, and one in Borah Bazaar Street. They were all removed to different hospitals. One roadside case was examined after death on Pultan Road, and one in Karwar Street, also examined after death. Five cases were removed from the Goculdas Tejpal Hospital, where they had been admitted from different districts. The reports from the Mandvie ward were not available. In C ward (north) Kumbarwada section showed three cases and three deaths; Khara Talao section one case and no deaths; and Bhuleshwar section four cases and no deaths. Seven contacts were removed to the Wari Bunder Camp. In the same ward (south) one case and three deaths were recorded in the Market section; six cases and no deaths in the Dhobie Talao section; and three cases and no deaths in the Fanaswady section. No reports from D ward had been received at the office. In E ward two cases and eight deaths were registered in the Byculla section; six cases and four deaths in the Mazagon section; no cases or deaths in the Nagpada section; four cases and no deaths in the Kamatipura section; and two cases and two deaths in the Tardeo section. Forty-two contacts were removed to the various camps. In the Parel and Mahim districts one case of plague was removed to a hospital, and three deaths were recorded.

PUNISHMENT FOR SPREADING INFECTION.

Yesterday, at the Esplanade Police Court, before Mr. W. Webb, Constable Harry Brewin charged Amruta Pillaji, a Hindu, and Abu Abdulla, a Mahomedan victoria-driver, with doing a rash act likely to spread an infectious disease. Mr. Joseph Rodrigues, a medical student, doing plague duty in A ward, deposed that on Sunday morning, at about 8 a.m., he was at Queen's Statue Chowkey, when he was called by one of the inspectors of the Plague Committee to see a patient. He was found to be a plague patient, and witness ordered him to be removed to hospital in an ambulance. The first accused suggested that the patient be taken to the hospital in a victoria, but witness refused to give permission. In spite of that refusal he brought a hack victoria there, and witness warned the second accused, who was in charge of the victoria, not to take the patient in; but he would not listen to what he was told, and said that so long as he was paid his proper fare he did not care for the warning. Mr. DuBoulay, I. C. S

ECHOES OF SCIENCE.

VICE-ADMIRAL MAKAROFF has proposed the employment of powerful ice-breaking steamers for clearing the harbours of the Baltic and a passage through the Kara Sea in winter. His idea has been approved by a Commission of the Russian Marine and will be put in force. If, as Nansen says, the polar ice is only about 10 feet thick, it should be possible for a vessel of this kind to break her way towards the North Pole. On Lake Michigan steamers of the kind break up ice over 12 feet thick.

Here, then, is a new way of getting to the Pole. A vessel or two built on the lines of the "Fram" to withstand pressure and fitted as ice-breakers, should be able to force their way to the Pole, or near it. The rest of the journey might be made with sledges. At a speed of two miles an hour, which can be accomplished in thick ice by these "breakers," the Pole might be reached from Spitzbergen in a fortnight, or, say, within a month. We are evidently approaching the era of polar holidays.

Herr Nagel has lately shown that odours can be mixed according to the law by which colours are blended. One odour completely masks another because of its intensity, but by inducing this intensity the other odour can be felt. Any two odours can, he thinks, be mixed so as to produce the effect of a simple odour.

Oil is, of course, well known for calming troubled seas; many ships carry it for the purpose, but soft soap is a new remedy. It was tried lately by the North German Lloyd steamer Gera, from Bremen to New York. On January 7 she encountered a storm, and waves broke over the vessel. Eight gallons of soft soap mixed with oil were run from closet pipes on the weather side. A heavy lather appeared, and the waves ceased to break on board.

There is no evidence amounting to proof that man existed in the world in the Tertiary period of geology, but it is proved that he lived in the Quaternary period which follows, and his remains have been found with those of the mammoth in Pleistocene beds. The Pithecanthropus of Dubois, of which the skull is lower than the lowest type of human skull, but higher than that of certain apes, is thought to date from the end of the Pliocene or the beginning of the Pleistocene, that is to say earlier than the oldest human skulls yet discovered. The most authentic samples of these are the skeleton from Spy, in Namur, Belgium, the skull from Galley Hill, Northfleet, the jaw from the Naulette cave, and a piece of skull from Bury St. Edmunds. The famous Neanderthal and Canstadt skulls are of doubtful age, but the Engulsheim skull is probably paleolithic.

Mr. Newton, F.R.S., President of the Geologists' Association, recently discoursed on the character of paleolithic man Huxley, on the strength of the Neanderthal skull, now discredited, drew a very unflattering portrait of these pioneers in Europe. They were short, but powerful in physique. Their skulls were low in the crown, with prominent ridges over the eyes, and their jaws brutally massive. In a word they were apelike in the head. Mr. Newton, however, speaks a good word for them. If we may judge by the capacity of their skulls, they were not less intelligent than Polynesians and Hottentots. Men of no mean intellectual power have possessed skulls of their type. Other skulls better certified than the Neanderthal skull show that there was a considerable range of form in the Paleolithic skulls. What is evident is that their skulls were long in shape, like those of the Neolithic men who followed them in time. These had higher and more modern skulls, and were also taller than their predecessors. Yet the paleolithic man seems to have been a more respectable person than Huxley supposed.

The knighthood of the Order Pour le Merite conferred on Dr. John Murray, Director of the Scottish Marine Station, and formerly of the "Challenger" expedition, is considered the highest honour a scientific man can receive. The order is limited to thirty Germans and twenty-five foreigners. The only other British knights are Lord Kelvin, Lord Lister, and Sir G. C. Stokes. Of these present holders two are Scotsmen and two are Irishmen.

A good deal of time is lost at booking offices of railway stations, waiting one's turn and the attention of the clerk, who is not always prompt. Hence the Compagnie des Chemins de fer du Nord and the Compagnie de l'Ouest at Paris have been trying a new apparatus for distributing tickets, which gives better results. It consists essentially of a drum carrying tickets for all stations, and turned by hand. When a ticket is required, the clerk turns the drum until the ticket presents itself at a window or slot. He then stamps it by depressing one of three handles according to the class, and delivers it to the customer. A record of the tickets sold is made automatically by the machine, which has proved a complete success.

An American inventor, Mr. F. Jenkins, has succeeded in giving to the photographic film of the cinematograph a continuous and uniform movement, thus avoiding the tremor sometimes seen in the "living pictures." The apparatus is a little too complicated to explain without a diagram, but the reader will find it fully illustrated in the "Scientific American."

A French scientific journal has published an illustration of a curious freak in a head of maize. The ordinary cylindrical column of maize grains terminates in a fairly good representation of the human hand, the four fingers and thumb being well marked. Carrots occasionally simulate the hand, but we are not aware that the maize plant has ever done it before. The hand, scaled as it is with corn, is such a good representation of the "mailed fist" that it might be a delicate attention to show it to the German Emperor.

Tunisia, where Homer led Ulysses to the lotos-eaters, and Carthage was built, has an ethnologist in Dr. L. Bertholon, of the city of Tunis. He has published a memoir on the races of the country and the island Gerba, the true lotos-land. He has also shown that some of the Berber types of North Africa are derived from the prehistoric Cro-Magnon race of Europe.

The American "Monthly Microscopical Journal" says that growth can be seen under the microscope by cutting a seed of collomia with a razor, and putting a slice on a slide under a glass cover. This should be placed in a microscope adjusted vertically, focussed, and lighted well. The seed is then moistened, and will be seen to throw out spiral fibres.

The Scotch proverb, "A thocht can cure and a thocht can kill" is fully borne out by modern science. Worry, which often begin in a single, troubling idea, injures the cells of the brain beyond repair, and as the brain is the nutritive and controlling centre of the body, the other organs are gradually impaired, disease ensues, and finally death.

Elder pith is usually regarded as the lightest material known, but sunflower pith is lighter. Its specific gravity is only 9-100 of that of water. For saving life at sea cork has a buoyancy of 1 to 5, reindeer hair 1 to 10, and sunflower pith 1 to 35.

Mr. James Dredge, C.M.G., one of the editors of "Engineering," and British Executive Commissioner of the late Brussels International Exhibition, has been presented with a beautiful album containing views of the exhibition, and an illuminated address.

Sir Norman Lockyer is publishing illustrated letters on the total eclipse and his experiences at Vizianagram in our contemporary, "Nature," of which he is the distinguished chief. The volunteers of H.M.S. "Melpomene," who assisted him to observe the eclipse, were drilled for the work beforehand by Captain Chisholm-Batten, and also instructed by scientific lectures.

Goldstein was the first to discover that common salt is coloured brown and potassium chloride violet by the action of the cathode rays, says the "Engineering and Mining Journal." The discoverer attributed this phenomenon to some physical change undergone by the salts. Wiedemann and Schmidt attributed it to their partial conversion into subchloride, and Giesel actually succeeded in preparing similarly coloured subchlorides in a chemical way. But the chemical hypothesis is now invalidated by the researches of R. Abegg. He obtained the salts in question in a pure and finely powdered state, so as to be able to colour them all through. His first experiments showed that the colouring does not spoil the vacuum in the tube, as it would if chlorine were evolved. The salts were rendered colourless again by high exhaustion producing rays with a strong heating effect. The substances could be coloured and uncoloured any number of times in succession. When the coloured salt was dissolved it produced no reducing or alkaline reaction. When undissolved in a saturated solution it retained its colour. All this tells against a chemical change. Moreover, an easily reduced chloride is not reduced by the cathode rays. It is well to remember that the colouration of these alkaline salts is a phenomenon not produced by light. On the other hand, cuprous chloride is blackened by light, but not acted upon by the cathode rays.

Open a can of peaches, apricots, cherries, or other fruit—for all fruit is acidulous—let it stand for some time, and the fruit acids and the tin are ready to do their work of poisoning. A chemical knowledge that tells just how the dangerous compound is erected is unnecessary to an avoidance of the peril. The rule to follow is never to make lemonade or other acidulated drinks in a tin bucket, nor allow them to stand in a vessel of tin; and in the case of canned fruits or fish, immediately upon opening the can, turn the contents out upon an earthenware plate, or into a dish that is made of earthenware or glass. Fruits in hermetically sealed cans, if properly prepared, do not generate poison. As soon as opened, the action of the acid on the tin, with the aid of the atmosphere, begins, and in a short time the result is a deadly poison. This brief statement of the question should be remembered by everyone, and its instructions followed. The general press also should aid in disseminating this simple knowledge.

THE AMENDMENT OF THE FAMINE RELIEF CODE.

OPINIONS OF THE SANITARY COMMISSIONER.

SUBJOINED is a copy of a letter addressed by Surgeon-Lieut.-Col. J. W. Clarkson, Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Revenue Department (Famine), dated 22nd December last:—

Sir,—I have the honour to submit some suggestions in view of a probable amendment of the Bombay Famine Code and with reference to Government Resolutions No. 1030—Famine, dated 2nd October, 1897, and No. 1895—Famine, of 10th November, 1897, in the Revenue Department, Famine, some remarks on the points brought to notice by Mr. Higham, C. I. E

It is, I think, clear that in future famines when crops are seen to be likely to fail over a large area that operations will commence by the banniah's refusing advances except to the most substantial of their clients, thus forcing large numbers of people to look elsewhere for their relief.

It will then be necessary for local test works to be opened, even though the nature of the work be of no special value, but will be merely a test of the necessity. Sites for camps should be marked out, but there is no need to put up huttin; to any extent as it will not be necessary to keep the workers on this kind of work for any length of time, but the camp should be marked out into blocks and residence on the camp made compulsory as part of the test. The Sanitary Commissioner or his Assistants will visit these works as early as possible, and see that the arrangements for safeguarding the water-supply and other sanitary arrangements are properly carried out.

I understand that one or more large relief works will be planned out beforehand in each district, to which workers from the test works will be carried as soon as possible, and I would suggest that as soon as these works have been planned out by the Public Works Department, that the Sanitary Department be communicated with, and on the map or plan of the works which has been prepared, the sites for camp, latrines, hospitals, kitchens, the source of the water-supply, &c., be marked out by one of the officers of the Sanitary Department in consultation with the Public Works Officer, so that there need be no delay in opening any works and the Sanitary officers need not at once proceed to the place to inspect it. The camps to be laid out as recommended in the late famine, huts facing north with 50 feet interspace between one row of huts and the next; and roadways to be 20 feet only.

Mr. Higham proposes to simplify the classification of workers, and to this there can be no objection, but he suggests that the carrier class should be paid the money value of 13 chittaks or 26 ozs. of grain Assuming, as is laid down, that 3-4 lb. of grain is the value of the 'other items' of a ration, the grain allowance amounts to 14 ounces, whereas, women of the same class at a jail are allowed 20 ozs. grain and 4 ozs. dhall in addition to salt, fuel, condiments and oil. The weight of females at the Deccan Central Jail is just short of an average of 90 lbs. Allowing this to be the weight of the carrier class and that the work done is carrying a basket of 30 lbs. 30,000 feet with a 5-foot lift, the carrier does just a little beyond 75 per cent. of an average day's work, taking 2 foot tons per pound of body weight as a fair day's work. Now in the last famine, workers on the D. scale (28 to 20 ounces) doing as much or as little they pleased, did not deteriorate; but below this is not safe or advisable to go, and if the carriers work up to the scale proposed the wage should be 15 chittaks or 30 ozs. If they will not work the scale can be reduced to 13 chittaks, and if the mass of the workers are idle the best way is to arrange to feed them on this minimum scale in a kitchen until they will work. If one week they are idle the next week they are fed, and then if they choose to work they get the paid wage again. Over and over again an attempt was made to keep adults in a kitchen, doing almost nothing and feeding them on D ration to test practically if D ration sufficed for people doing nothing, and it was surprising how little they liked it and how soon they left.

PIECEWORK.

There is also a suggestion made that workers should be put on piecework and earn enough wages to support themselves and their dependants. The experiment in famine time has to be tried on this side and will have to be carefully watched. It is certain that a labourer going to a relief work will take his family with him, and if he cannot or will not earn enough, either the whole family deteriorate or else the children are those who suffer. Experience has shown that if children in good condition are compelled to go to kitchen and are fed there, the ration allowed suffices to keep them in good health. If not brought to kitchen, ailments are concealed until medical aid is too late.

Here I would remark that I do not think the age at which children should be admitted as workers need be altered from what it is now. In any system of work adopted large numbers of children are bound to be brought on the work, and it is much better to allow those who can work and earn a wage to do so. If the medical officer considers that a child is physically unfit, though over seven years of age, he is sent to the kitchen, and also if the officer in charge of the works considers any working child to be idling and not doing his proper share of work he can be sent on to the kitchen.

In the amending of the Code definite orders should be laid down on the subject of pregnant women, confined women, and nursing mothers.

Pregnant women can cease work 15 days before their expected confinement or earlier if they wish to. Their ration should be the value of 30 ounces, as they do not require so much food before, as after confinement.

TREATMENT OF INVALID WOMEN.

Confined women are for the first 10 days to be allowed a nurse, a woman on 30 ounces wage. The confined woman gets an allowance sufficient to purchase daily 1 lb. of wheat or jowari, 12 tolas of jaggery and one tola of ghee, fuel, and the country medicines usually taken after confinement. From the 4th to the 10th day she should be allowed the 38 ounces scale, and after the 10th day, unless there are medical reasons to the contrary, she can go to the kitchen and be fed on the same scale. After two months she can, if she chooses, go on the works getting the 38 ounces scale, but no allowance for the child, provided the child keeps healthy. If the infant is found to be getting in poor condition both mother and child are sent back to the kitchen. A woman is to be considered a 'nursing mother' until her child has two teeth in each jaw. To section 109A should be added "And a grant of Rs. 2,000 shall be allotted to him against which he can sign bills for medical expenditure," and to section 171 B, "If any medical officer or compounder is employed on famine duty as an urgent case by a Collector, if he is not already in Government service, his name and the rate of his pay agreed upon and the name of the work to which he is posted shall be notified to the Sanitary Commissioner." In the same way "if a medical officer or compounder or a hospital is moved to another camp as a matter of urgency, the move shall be notified to the Sanitary Commissioner." To section 175 should be added (c) "The medical officer in charge of a Famine Relief Camp Hospital shall be entitled to draw Rs. 50 to pay for hospital requirements sanctioned by the Sanitary Commissioner and the expenditure to be recovered by bills countersigned by the Sanitary Commissioner. This is to avoid the delay caused by getting necessary articles through the Special Civil Officer. The Special Civil Officer may be asked to assist in getting what is required on payment by the medical officer and then the Special Civil Officer need not be in doubt as to whether he should or should not get the items required and perhaps lose time in referring the matter to his superior. He is asked to get it and gets paid, and the medical officer is responsible.

PAYMENT OF WAGES.

It should also be laid down who is to pay the wages of the (a) hospital servants proper, (b) the wages of nurses employed in attendance on special cases. Also who is to pay the allowance to nursing mothers and for the rations of those sick in hospital. I am of opinion that these should be paid by the Special Civil Officer and be a charge against the work. If Government think fit, the bills should be sent in every week for countersigning by the Sanitary Commissioner, but not as a charge against his grant. In the case of camps at which there is a medical officer, he signs the bills before they are sent for countersignature in token that the members charged for have been employed and paid or that the allowance and rations have been received.

I append also two forms which may be inserted in the list of forms at the end of the Famine Code. One is to show the numbers in hospital and the rations received, and the other is a modification of Form No. 3.

It appears to me, unless the famine is over, a small area and the number of medical officers available for duty fairly numerous, it is useless getting daily reports or including in them out-patients who were as a rule seen by medical officers during their tours of inspection and treated on the spot.

It would be as well also to insert in the Code some rules as to recording births and deaths in camps. I propose that some responsible officer keep the usual village Birth and Death Register Form No. XIV, heading it with the name of the camp and the name of the village in the area of which the principal part of the work is situated. All births and deaths in the camp, those occurring in hospital as well, are to be included and the return sent at the end of every month as soon as possible to the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner of the district for tabulation. If relief workers are allowed to live in villages near, then the Kulkarni of the village enters every birth or death occurring in the village and adds Famine Relief Worker, Camp.

Finally, I would point out that if the Sanitary Commissioner is to travel continuously and inspect as he should do, it is absolutely necessary to give him the services of a medical officer to act as Secretary.

BOMBAY YARN IN CHINA.

MESSRS. FRAMJEE HORMUSJEE & Co.'s Cotton Circular, dated Hongkong February 18, is this summarised:—During the longer interval of three weeks that has elapsed owing to the alteration in the departure of the English Mail steamers last report, there has not been barring an occasional rise of dol 1-2 to dol 1 here and there, much of a variation in prices, and excepting some activity infused during the first week owing to indents from Shanghai, there has not been even much of a disturbance in the even and moderate course that has followed to satisfy the legitimate demands of the country markets. A variation downward in exchange has been noticeable, but no speculative feeling having been predominant owing to dealers having been fully loaded, values have been but insignificantly affected as above. Sales during the period have totalled about 10,000 bales made up of

3,000	bales of No. 20 sold at dols 90	to dols	102	and dols	101 1-2
1,200	" " " 16	"	85 1-2	"	94
1,500	" " " 12	"	84	to "	91
1,800	" " " 10	"	76 1-2	to "	92 and dols 94 1-2
100	" " " 8	"	76	to	80
50	" " " 6	"	75	to	79

reducing unsold stocks—under moderate arrivals of about 13,000 bales, and under large shipments of about 12,000 bales northwards and coastwise—to about 30,000 bales consisting of

7,0 0	bales of No. 20	10,030	bales of	No.	10
5,000	" " " 16	1,500	"	"	8
5,000	" " " 12	1,500	"	"	6

Against this reduction of unsold stocks, about 35,000 bales sold but uncleared has to be kept in view. Japanese spinnings have been rather firm, and about 600 bales Nos. 20 and 16 have been sold at dols 99 to $102 for No. 20, and $95 to $99 for No. 16. Exchange on India, though it has been hovering round about Rs. 141 1-2 during the major portion of the period, has decline latterly to Rs. 139 1-2 wire and 140 post.

In Shanghai the speculative feeling of brokers was quiescent, but there were orders from Tientsin, Newchwang, and Chefoo, and this legitimate inquiry infused a healthy amount of activity that led to a rise of Ti. 1 to Ti. 1·50 in No. 20, and of Ti. 1 in Nos. 10 and 16, and to transactions of about 12,500 bales made up of

5,200	bales of No. 20 sold at Tls. 74	to	78·50		
4,000	" " " 16	"	71	"	75.50 and 77.50
300	" " " 12	"	69	"	71.50
3,000	" " " 10	"	63	"	69.75

Unsold stock has been estimated there at about 13,000 bales. Of local spinnings some 3,000 bales Nos. 14, 16 and 10 have been done at a rise of a tael on previous quotations. Japanese Yarns were firmly held in this market likewise, and about 1,500 bales Nos. 20 and 16 found purchasers at Tls. 76.50 to 78 for the former, and Tls. 73 for the latter. The dicline in exchange on India has not affected the market there as here owing to the uncertainty of its course and this has been a bar for the time being to speculative purchases. As on the 14th instant the rate on India has been advised at Rs. 190 1-2 wire and Rs. 191 post. American Cotton for the local mills as well as for Japan has been reported as largely ordered out.

In Japan there has been a firmer feeling all round. No. 20 has been sold of best spinnings at dols 99.50.

CHINA MAIL NEWS.

THE condition of affairs in the Far East still remains quiescent, but developments are daily expected. With the British fleet still in the North, and more ships on their way out to the China Station, the situation is every day looming up more important. The only information from Peking is that conferences with regard to the Loan are frequent occurrences.

A Shanghai correspondent telegraphed last night that it was reported in Shanghai that China had agreed to accept the Russian loan, and that France and Germany were co-operating with Russia in the matter.

Information reaches us from Tonkin exchanges that the military authorities there are making active preparations for the mobilisation on a given signal of some 7,000 men. Melinite shells and other ammunition has been served out to the garrisons, and it is believed the troops, which include artillery, will be called upon to co-operate with the French navy as soon as the naval reinforcements arrive in the Far East. Two compaies of troops have been sent to Monkay. It is said that Admiral de Beaumont, arrived at Saigon on the 11th inst., has brought out definite orders in regard to Hainan, which appears to be the objective of the French preparations.

According to a native paper, the Germans have again taken very prompt action in regard to the Murder of the sentry at Kiaochau. The District Magistrate was at once seized and imprisoned in the Confucian temple, and was only liberated after the local gentry had begged for his release, and given the assurance that they would undertake to hand over the perpetrators of the outrage.

Mr. R. E. Bredon, Commissioner, has been appointed Deputy-Inspector General of the Imperial Maritime Customs. Mr. Bredon was formerly Commissioner of Customs at Canton.

The total loss by the great fire in Manila is estimated at about two millions of dollars, of which about dols. 700,000 is covered by insurance.

Forty-eight cases of smallpox having been reported from No. 4 Health District during the past week, a special meeting of the Sanitary Board declared it an infected area. A vaccination ward has been opened in this District, and vaccinations will also be performed at the Tung Wah Hospital. The Sanitary Board have recommended that during the present emergency and assistant inspector of nuisances should be engaged for this district. Europeans are being vaccinated at the Government Civil Hospital every day from 2 to 4 p.m. This Health District is bounded on the east by Wyndham Street, on the west by Graham Street and on the south by Caine Road.

Sir John Carrington, the Chief Justice, has delivered his Judgment in the suit, which has become known locally as the Synagogue case, in which Gubbay and others, on behalf of the Jewish Community, sued Hon. E. R. Belilios in respect of a site of land which the plaintiffs alleged Mr. Belilios bought on behalf to the Jewish community for the purpose of erecting a synagogue. His Lordship gave judgment for the defendant, who, he said, was not acting as agent or representative of the Jewish community when he purchased the land, but being desirous of having a new synagogue erected on the site, he intended to give the community the right or privilege of taking a portion of the land for that purpose. His Lordship gave the plaintiffs the opportunity to apply for leave to amend in order to obtain a decree for specific performance.

Seven of the crew of a sampan have died from acute poisoning, said to have been caused by eating some beans, the sweepings from the hold of steamer in port:—*China Mail* (Feb. 19.)

AN UNLUCKY WARSHIP.

THE ALGERINE IN DOCK.

THE *Shanghai Daily News* of the 10th inst., says:—Captain Domville of the Algerine left yesterday on board the storeship Humber for Hongkong en route for home. The *Shanghai Mercury* of the 10th inst. reports that the damage sustained by the Algerine in recent accidents are more serious than at first supposed. Her starboard bilge keel has completely vanished, a long line of splintered woodwork, with projecting rivets and jagged and torn edges of copper sheathing, marking where it once was. Her false keel has also disappeared, only some four or five feet of it just abaft the forefoot remaining. Her port bilge keel has also been wrenched out of shape, while all the copper sheathing amidships is stripped off and twisted about all over the place. The repairs must necessarily occupy weeks, if not months, and will cost at least £3,000. It appears that after leaving here on Jan. 23rd, and whilst nearing Tinghai at a little after 3 a.m. the following morning, she suddenly went ashore. The boats were at once swung out, the watertight doors closed and ammunition hoisted up, and after bumping and banging about for about three quarters of an hour she managed to get off and proceeded on her way to Tinghai. On her arrival there a Court of Inquiry was held at once, followed by a Court Martial at which both Captain and Navigating Lieutenant were reprimanded. The Algerine was built at Devonport, and this her first commission, has proved terribly unfortunate so far. She commissioned on February 11th, 1897, or exactly one year to-morrow. When she started for the Far East she experienced a very bad time of it, taking eight days to make Gibraltar from Plymouth losing one boat and smashing some others. Arrived at Malta the missing boat was replaced by the one just smashed by the bows of the Ningpo junk. Her troubles commenced out here with the sad suicide of one of her officers. Then on November 3rd she got so far aground on the Shanghai flats that at low tide her bows were only in three feet of water, and remained practically high and dry for some hours. Next came her two recent accidents, so that she can hardly be called a fortunate ship. A trim little craft, speedy, of light draught and just the thing for these waters, it will be a pity if her ship's company do not discover the Jonah in their midst and drop him comfortably overboard as soon as found.

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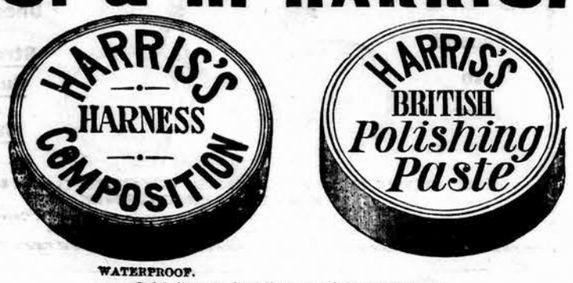

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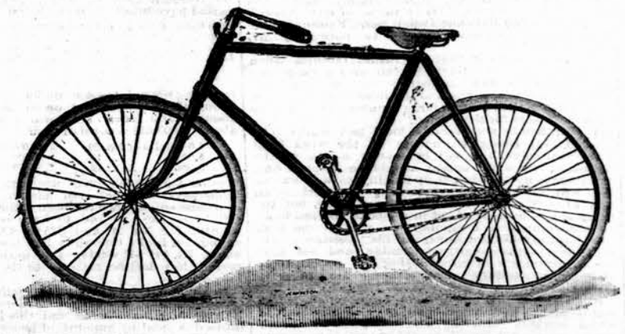

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